

English enrollment figures differ

By Kim Wilt

While University of Nebraska-Lincoln English department chairman John Robinson is saying that students will be turned away in the fall, administration figures show that the department's enrollment is dropping, the Summer Nebraskan has learned.

Robinson has communicated to Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, that about 150 students will not get the English classes for which they have registered, and that 33 class sections in the department are unstaffed.

However, a university employee, who asked not to be identified, said the university is projecting that every student who wants an English class will get one.

Robinson could not be reached for comment.

The source said the English department has experienced a 27 percent drop in enrollment in the past six years, which accounts for all of an enrollment decrease of about 2 percent in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Also, student credit hours in the English department over that time have dropped 25 percent, according to the source.

Hedges confirms drop

Hedges confirmed that student credit hours have dropped more than 20 percent from the 1973-74 school year to the 1979-80 school year.

"Certainly any data we have affects decisions we make about budgets," he said.

He also said the decline in the English department is the largest within the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There has not been a general decline in student credit hour production in the university," he said. "It concerns me that there is that kind of decline, but it may be explainable on a rational basis."

More composition classes

For example, he said, students are taking more composition classes, rather than larger classes, such as literature.

Robinson has sent him information on enrollment and the decline in student credit hour production, but he has not read it yet, he said.

Hedges will meet with Max Larsen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences today to discuss the issue.

The Summer Nebraskan has learned that Robinson has told Hedges that student credit hours have gone down, as has full-time faculty equivalency (FTE), an estimation of the number of instructors teaching classes.

However, it was learned that he has said student credit hours have dropped more than FTE. In other words, the number of students per class has dropped in recent years.

Robinson has told Hedges that this is because one-third of English classes are composition courses, which are traditionally small.

Betty Levitov, English instructor, said the department was responding to the current demand for "back to basics" teaching by emphasizing composition classes. Large classes would make these courses difficult to teach, she said.

Robinson told Hedges that the total number of English sections scheduled to be taught next fall (268) is the same as the number taught last fall, but 33 of those sections are unstaffed because of a lack of funds to pay teachers, the Summer Nebraskan has learned. In addition, he said, an extra 25 sections will be needed to boost the number of sections currently scheduled to be taught up to the number offered in the fall of 1978.

Although class size is smaller, he said money is short because, "E" money (money taken from the salaries of tenured professors on leave and used to pay visiting instructors) will not be available.

The money was cut by Max Larsen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in response to a request from Hedges that some college deans make cuts in their budgets.

Robinson told Hedges that the English department cannot manage without "E" money, the Summer Nebraskan has learned, and will need extra assistance.

Meanwhile, Joan Griffin, chairperson of the English department junior staff steering committee, said the committee is investigating whether the administration violated university by-laws by excluding the academic planning committee from its decision to request budget cuts from the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There's a question of the reallocation of funds procedures, and whether the administration has followed those procedures," she said.

The academic planning committee is a university-wide group, made up mostly of faculty members, which, according to the regents' by-laws must be included in budget decisions.

Norma Sue Griffin, chairperson of the academic planning committee, said the committee normally is not consulted on fund reallocations within colleges.

The first time she heard of the English department budget cuts was at the regents' meeting Saturday, she said.

She said she is uncertain whether reviewing the Arts and Sciences budget cuts is part of the committee's responsibility.

"We have a set of guidelines relating to when the committee gets involved," she said. "Only when major program elements are being eliminated would we come in."

Fall math classes will be larger

By Jeanne Mohatt

Money shortages are nothing new at UNL, but the campus-wide problem has intensified, according to two UNL math professors.

"Every year it gets tighter and tighter," said professor Jerald Dauer. "It's been an oncoming thing."

Like many UNL departments, the mathematics and statistics department is preparing for larger classes and fewer instructors for the fall semester, vice-chairman James Lewis said.

"We're making classes larger than we would like," he said. "We don't want to turn away students."

"Ideally, we would like to see 25 kids in a class, but in reality it appears the average will be at least 40 this fall."

The department has cancelled at least eight classes for the fall semester, he said, and more classes may have to be cut later.

Those courses probably would have been cancelled even without budget reductions in the College of Arts and Sciences, Lewis said.

Dean Max Larsen said that the College of Arts and Sciences must cut \$475,000 in its 1980-81 budget. The Legislature allocated a 10.32 percent increase

over last year's UNL budget, while university officials had requested a 15 percent increase.

More pressure

"Each year there is more pressure," Lewis said. This year's problems cannot be directly pinpointed to this year's budget cut, he said.

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Students had time to protest plan —advisers

By Jeanne Mohatt

Student government officials had ample opportunity to express their dissatisfaction with the affirmative action plan before the NU Board of Regents approved it Saturday, two members of a special advisory committee said Tuesday.

"We really gave the opportunity to get as broad a representation (of viewpoints) as possible," said Wilma Crumley, associate dean of the School of Journalism. On the committee she represented the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Meetings held

Larry Andrews, assistant vice-chancellor for academic affairs, represented the Chancellor's office on the committee. He said three, two-hour hearings were held during April and May. A number of groups were represented at the hearings, including the Chicano Student Organization, he said.

"I don't recall that anyone signed in to speak for ASUN (Associated Students of the University of Nebraska)," he said.

Renee Wessels, ASUN president, told the regents Saturday that the affirmative action plan is not a "program of action," and barely meets

the federal guidelines.

She said the plan deals exclusively with hiring and does not address the training of women and minorities in managerial positions. She also said the cost of the plan is not mentioned.

ASUN won't endorse

She said ASUN will not endorse the plan as it is written now.

"We sent draft copies to a number of offices," Andrews said. "We sent copies to all the deans, to a number of constituency groups and to the ASUN office."

"I was kind of surprised to hear that there was a concern about student input," Crumley said. "We did make a sincere attempt to get input."

Finals week

Glenn Poppert, ASUN second vice president, said that the first affirmative action hearing he knew about was scheduled on the Thursday night of finals week in May.

"It's obvious why I couldn't go," he said.

"I talked to a couple other people involved, and they had heard of the meetings either on the day of or the day after they were held. It was like they (the advisory committee) didn't want anyone there."

All of the hearings were held after

the ASUN elections, he said. "It was a real bad time for us—a change in administration."

Andrews said that the affirmative action plan is "workable."

"It's not a perfect affirmative action plan, by any means," he said. "That's why we've built in an annual review and revision cycle. The plan is focused primarily on objectives that can be assessed on a quarterly or annual basis."

"Basically, it's a good document to start from," Crumley said.



Staff Photo By Janet Hammer
Wilma Crumley, journalism professor



Staff Photo By Janet Hammer
Rady A. Johnson

Rules affect U.S. economy —oil executive

By Jeanne Mohatt

The business community has neglected its responsibility of ensuring our society of a clean environment and safe production and products, and has turned the job over to federal government regulations, according to a top executive in a major oil company.

Rady A. Johnson, vice president for government affairs of Standard Oil of Indiana, spoke Tuesday about "The Impact of Political Regulations on Business and Industry" at a lecture sponsored by the Robert A. Taft Institute.

Business did not accept responsibility for clean air and water and less hazardous production and products because "it would cost us (businesses) more," Johnson said. Not all businesses neglected this responsibility, he said, because it makes sense to provide safe work areas to increase production.

"But the business community did not do the job it should have," he said.

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