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Poll indicates faculty dissatisfied

By Mary Louise Knapp

A recent telephone poll of UNL faculty revealed that at least 70 percent of those questioned are dissatisfied with the faculty's influence on salary and budgetary matters at UNL.

The poll was conducted by the UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Results were based on a random selection of 290 faculty members, including outstate staff and county extension agents.

Sixty percent of the faculty members contacted said collective bargaining is in principle an appropriate strategy for a university faculty.

Linda Pratt, president-elect of the AAUP and graduate chairman of the English department, said an AAUP recommendation that the faculty conduct a card campaign as a first step toward obtaining collective bargaining "passed overwhelmingly" at an AAUP meeting Wednesday.

The AAUP's Strategies Committee, of which Pratt is the chairwoman, made the recommendation.

The AAUP has not yet decided which faculty members would make up a bargaining unit if the faculty decided it wants one, Pratt said.

"We are seeking legal advice on the matter," she said.

The AAUP is considering efforts to define the bargaining unit so as not to include county extension

agents, Pratt said. Extension agents are UNL employees, but the AAUP is unsure at this time whether they are considered faculty members, she said.

Pratt said the National AAUP has donated \$2,000 grant to the UNL chapter to continue collective bargaining efforts; plus airline travel money for speakers who travel to UNL. The first speaker, scheduled for Oct. 20, is Victor Stone, president of the National AAUP.

"We've raised more than \$500 from the (UNL AAUP) membership in the last two weeks to finance other expenses," she said.

David Moshman, president of the UNL AAUP, said he had expected the Strategies Committee's recommendation to pass.

Moshman, also an associate professor of educational psychology and social foundations, said he was pleased with the turnout at the meeting and the interest shown by faculty members in collective bargaining.

Moshman said he was not surprised at the results of the telephone survey. An informal poll of faculty taken about two years ago showed much the same response, he said.

In other results of the telephone poll, about 70 percent of faculty members expressed distrust of NU Board of Regents and the Central Administration. Full and associate professors at UNL for 15 years or more expressed the most distrust.

Distrust in the College of Arts and Sciences was greatest; 90 percent of the faculty members from the college who were polled expressed distrust.

In other colleges, the percentages of those expressing distrust of the regents and Central Administration were: College of Business Administration, 75 percent; College of Home Economics, 74 percent; Teachers College, 66 percent; College of Engineering, 62 percent; and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 54 percent.

The samples of opinion in other areas of the campus were too small to be statistically reliable, according to an AAUP press release on the survey results.

About 50 percent of the faculty polled expressed distrust of the UNL campus administration.

Support for immediate collective bargaining at UNL ranged from 75 percent in the College of Arts and Sciences to 17 percent in the College of Engineering.

Strong opinions about benefits, pay and the proposed veterinary school also were expressed in the poll. Between 62 percent and 71 percent of the faculty said the AAUP should work to improve medical and dental benefits and merit pay.

About 85 percent of those polled opposed the proposed vet school. Opposition was 100 percent in the College of Business Administration and was 75 percent in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Congress smooths path to veterinary school

By Gene Gentrup

Plans for a regional veterinary school on UNL's East Campus are under way, said Dr. R. Gene White, coordinator of the Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Program.

White said the U.S. House-Senate conference committee approval of \$12.05 million for the proposed veterinary school last Friday virtually assured final congressional approval of the appropriation. The federal government last year granted \$827,000 for the proposed school, he said, but the project needs at least \$1.5 million in private donations.

The project has had tremendous support, White said, but the road has not been easy.

"It has been a long, hard struggle, but we couldn't have done it without the support of the governor, the Legislature and the numerous contributors," he said.

White said participation by at least two other schools is vital to the success of the project.

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Staff photo by Dan Kuhns

And They're Off

Pat Hengen (left) of Kappa Sigma, and Kelli Greene of Delta Delta Delta lead off a bicycle relay to the Oklahoma State football game. The event is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Libraries open football Saturdays

By Terry L. Hyland

Two UNL libraries that have been closed on home football game Saturdays will be open on the three remaining home football days, administration officials said Thursday.

John Strong, vice chancellor for academic affairs, said Love Library on city campus and the C.Y. Thompson Library on East Campus will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday for the rest of the semester.

All 11 university libraries had been closed on home game days in an effort to save money in the library budget.

Dean of Libraries Gerald Rudolph said there are no plans to open the nine branch libraries on home game days.

He estimated that \$3,000 will be deferred in the library budget to finance the openings. That money would normally be used to purchase bindings for periodical volumes.

Strong said the decision to reopen the libraries came after discussions with faculty and the Asso-

ciated Students of the University of Nebraska, the UNL student government. Strong said those groups expressed concern for students who were adversely affected by the closings, especially graduate students who needed the libraries open on Saturdays because they had limited research time.

Strong said ASUN also had expressed concern that budget problems cause future closings. He said the university has requested priority funding for the libraries from the Nebraska Legislature to alleviate problems in the future.

ASUN President Matt Wallace, who led a student effort to reopen the libraries, called the decision the result of a combined effort between students and administration. He said the solution to the library problem was a good example of how students can achieve results by following proper channels.

Strong and Rudolph worked together on the plan to reopen the libraries, with support from UNL Chancellor Martin Messersmith.

The library openings will take effect on Oct. 22, when Nebraska hosts Colorado in UNL's Homecoming game.

Friday

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