

# Daily Nebraskan

Vol. 81, No. 60

The Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1966

## Evaluation Book 'Will Be Published'

### Neumeister Pledges Publication Despite Committee Disapproval



LIBEL . . . and the faculty evaluation book were discussed at a meeting of Dean Ross's student affairs committee and a University attorney.

By Jan Itkin  
Senior Staff Writer

The Committee on Student Affairs Tuesday passed a motion withdrawing approval of the ASUN Faculty-Evaluation book, but Kent Neumeister, ASUN president, said that as far as he was concerned the book will still be published.

Dr. William Torrence, associate professor of business organization and management, made a motion to rescind the book's approval on the grounds that individuals on the Student Affairs Committee can be held legally and financially responsible in case of legal action.

His motion stated that "the Committee on Student Affairs rescind its approval to the ASUN, previously granted on Jan. 13, 1966, concerning the conducting of a faculty-evaluation program. This rescinding motion is made due to the possibility of legal liability for libelous matter."

Approval had been granted to the ASUN Faculty-Evaluation committee to proceed with plans for their book at a previous meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs Jan. 13. This week, questionnaires for the book were circulated to campus living units by the ASUN committee.

G. Robert Ross, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, suggested that concern created over the book arose after more people became aware of the book due to recent articles in the Daily Nebraskan and, for that reason, the special meeting had been called to consult with legal authorities about the book.

Flavel Wright, a representative of the University's legal council, was consulted and presented certain legal aspects of the book—mainly that if a faculty member is dismissed from the University and believes that the Faculty-Evaluation Book was responsible, he would have a legal case.

Wright explained that the hypothetical faculty member could sue either the staff or individuals who issue approval of the book. He could not sue the Board of Regents, however, in that the Regents

are considered "an arm of the state and the state cannot be sued."

The question arose as to whether or not such a suit could be won and Wright admitted that the chance is "slight" but added that "even if the University had a complete defense, the case would be troublesome."

When asked what would happen if the responsibility for approving the book was transferred to Faculty Senate, Wright pointed out that, if such were the case, Faculty Senate could be held responsible since "it could prevent publication if it so desired."

"It would depend then on who was named in the suit," Wright continued and added that only individuals who were specifically named in the suit would be responsible.

"I couldn't care less if others would also be held responsible," commented Torrence. "Spreading the heat to my colleagues and dragging 800 others into the liability boat wouldn't relieve my personal liability a bit."

Ladd Lonquist, chairman of the ASUN Faculty-Evaluation Committee, noted, "My lawyer said that a committee concerned with the book could not be sued as a committee but that an individual—namely myself—would be held responsible."

Ross pointed out that any individual could be held responsible for the decisions of a committee on which he was a member.

The question then arose as to whether the Subcommittee on Student Publications could

be liable for what was printed in publications which they had approved.

"I was under the understanding that, as a member of Pub Board, I could not be held responsible for what publications under our jurisdiction printed," said Terry Schaaf.

Wright answered that if something could not be printed without approval, then whoever gave the approval held the responsibility.

"This is the first answer we have ever received on this question of liability," Torrence said.

Ross explained that Pub Board did not serve as a censor to student publications but served "to approve a staff, organization and production rather than contents" and cited the Daily Nebraskan as an example.

Wright replied that according to the law "Pub Board still retains liability."

Neumeister said, "We were fully cognizant of the possibility of libel, but thought that the chances of someone being awarded a damages in such a case were doubtful."

"It would seem to be a pretty stiff risk," Torrence commented.

Schaaf explained that of about 20 universities having similar faculty-evaluation books, he had not learned of any legal actions comparable to the ones suggested as possibilities.

Insurance to cover lawsuits resulting from books of this type were discussed and Ross pointed out that of the three international insurance groups contacted, all refused to insure the project but first had quoted policies beginning at "\$100,000 deductible."

The question of how far liability did extend concerning

publications was brought up by Dr. Robert Larson, assistant professor of chemistry.

"How far does this extend?" he asked. "How far can we actually go within limits of proper procedure?"

Ross suggested that the committee usually acted on the assumptions that governed the Daily Nebraskan and Cornhusker, but that an evaluation book involved "other terms."

Wright pointed out, "You realize that the potential risk involved cannot be possibly eliminated if the book is published," and that the book differed from a newspaper in that newspapers receive different types of consideration from their readers than do annual reports.

Neumeister said that the necessity for receiving administration approval to publish when individuals on the board "held vested interests in the project" (such as liability to law suits) was an "antiquated idea," and that as far as he was concerned, the book would still be published.

Torrence wished the students luck and hoped they would continue to "work with the good taste and judgment" they had previously assured the Student Affairs Committee would be used in writing the book.

Ross urged the students to feel free to come to the committee for any advice they may need and to discuss any alternatives they might propose.

"In all fairness, it should be clearly understood," Torrence stressed, "that the decision was reached on the basis of new information. As reasonable men, we have no alternative. The change was not one of sympathies but one of practicality."

## AWS Board Extends Visiting Hours In Women's Residence Quarters

By Toni Victor  
Junior Staff Writer

A motion that extends visiting hours on Monday through Thursday in women's residences from 7 p.m. to closing hours and restricts women from visiting men's residences (except coed dorms) during this time, was passed by the AWS Board at a meeting Tuesday.

Letters will be sent to women's residences by the AWS Board advising that each residence set up its own regulations on visiting hours from 7 p.m. until closing.

Vicki Dowling, vice president of AWS, explained that out of consideration for the house mother, who must be present during visiting hours, and to promote a study atmosphere, the Board is suggesting individual visiting hours for the women's residences. These special hours, however, will be under the jurisdiction and enforcement of the residence alone.

The 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. visiting hours in men's residences was eliminated with the exception of the coed dorms. Women will not be able to visit men's residences at this time unless special permission is granted.

The men's hours were eliminated because the Board felt

that the practice of visiting the men's residences during the one hour was not widespread enough to warrant the inconvenience to housemothers of being present at that time.

A tentative senior key system, senior key questionnaires, will be distributed and considerations involving the proposed system discussed at special junior-senior meetings in women's residences some time this week, the AWS Board announced.

The questionnaire asks such questions as: "In your opinion, who should be eligible for key privileges?" and "Should a minimum grade average be required of participants?" as well as whether the student is in favor of the system at all.

The tentative senior key system being sent with the questionnaires was prepared partially on the basis of inquiries into key systems in use at other schools.

The tentative system states in part that in order for a girl to be eligible such must be registered as a senior, have written permission from her parents, and have a 2.0 overall average.

A report on the survey of parents regarding AWS regulations on closing hours,

overnights and other related rules was given by Miss Dowling. Sixty-six questionnaires were returned by the parents polled. Miss Dowling stated that the replies were generally quite conservative and that most parents felt the present regulations were satisfactory.

On the question of unlimited hours, seventeen parents objected because of health and study reasons. Eleven parents voted "yes" for senior keys while forty-nine said "no." When asked whether senior women should have a quota of late leaves, the vote was nearly divided on the question, with 27 parents saying "yes" and 28 voting "no."

The answers to both sets of questionnaires will be taken under consideration by the AWS Board and a final vote on the issue will be held on February 21.

The Board passed a motion to limit all campaigning for AWS Board positions according to procedures set up by the AWS Board. One member suggested that these limitations specific prohibit campaigning that involved expenditure of money and materials. The specific limitations will be decided upon at the next meeting of the Board.

## Ross Tells Faculty That Evaluation Book Could Bring Responsibility In Libel Suit

By Julie Morris  
Senior Staff Writer

Announcement at the Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday of the rescinding of the approval of a faculty evaluation book by the Committee on Student Affairs drew comment from only one faculty member in attendance.

Edgar Pearlstein, professor of physics, asked G. Robert Ross, vice-chancellor and dean of student affairs who made the announcement, "Is this lack of approval due solely to fear on the part of the committee?"

Ross answered that the Committee on Student Affairs is "in favor of the concept and the proposal, but not in favor of placing themselves in a financially responsible position."

Ross briefly explained to the Senate the possibility of the Committee members being held responsible in a libel suit for statements made in a faculty evaluation book. "We are interested in discussing other alternatives with them (the students) at our next meeting which will be held Monday," he said.

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to accept the committee report.

Later during the meeting Ross made an additional statement about the Committee action on a faculty evaluation book. He said that the students saw the venture as one of their "major" projects for the year and realizes the students may be "disappointed and discouraged."

"I feel that the students are, in a reasonable and very vigorous way, attempting to place themselves in the mainstream of academic life," Ross said.

Ross also urged the faculty to place themselves in a position where they would be able to assist and guide students. His remarks were received without comment from the floor.

In other action at the Senate meeting, Chancellor Clifford Hardin discussed the University budget problems.

He said projected enrollment for the fall semester of 1966 is "at least 16,000, that might be conservative," and that the present budget appropriations are being strained to keep up with the financial need.

Hardin explained that the increased enrollment comes, not merely from new enrollments but because the "retention" rate of students is up. He said that this year 78 per cent of last year's freshmen became sophomores, where the former figure was about 62 per cent.

Hardin explained that the possibilities of raising new funds include a possible "deficiency appropriation" made by the state legislature, a raise in tuition that would be about \$18 to \$20 per student per semester or an "emergency fee" assessed of students as a "one-time only" measure that might even be refunded.

"To limit enrollment to fit our pocketbook would prob-

ably mean denying enrollment to one-fourth to one-third of prospective freshmen," Hardin said.

"I hope within the next three weeks we will have some definite answers to what we can do to meet this situation next fall," he concluded.

A report from the Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aids was questioned by one faculty member. The issue under fire was a statement of the Committee that students may be considered for financial assistance under the Federal Work-Study Program "even though they may not be classified as a poverty family."

Edward Lundak, director of aids, said that the aid goes first to "poverty students" those whose parents make "\$3,000 to \$3,200" yearly. Then if the University has money available and open jobs, the office is allowed to extend Work-Study Program aid to students with incomes in the \$5,000, \$6,000; \$7,000 brackets.

## Union To Present Film Discussion

Nebraska Union film society will present its second "Film Forum" Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the west cafeteria of the Nebraska Union.

Mrs. David Levine will moderate a discussion on "Bay of Angels," "The Cool World," or other subjects pertaining to the film society or cinema in general.

## Panel Topic: Future Of Republicans

Secretary of State Frank Marshall, Lincoln City Councilman John Mason and Omaha Attorney Robert Kutalec will appear on a panel discussion of the "Future of the Republican Party" at 7:30 Thursday, in the Nebraska Union.

Sponsors of the panel are the University Young Republicans. Each of the three panelists will consider three or four predetermined questions before the meeting is opened to questions from the audience.

Mason, a Lincoln attorney, headed the Nebraska effort in Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's 1964 presidential bid. He has been active in Republican affairs in Lancaster County for some time.

Marshall has consistently been his party's top vote-getter in general elections and has been Secretary of State for 13 years.

Kutalec served on the staff of Nebraska Sen. Roman Hruska for six years, resigning in late 1964 after assisting in the Senator's re-election campaign. His last two years of service were as administrative assistant to Hruska. He has been practicing law in Omaha since leaving Hruska's staff.

## Senate Studies Housing

A report on international student housing will be presented Wednesday to Student Senate by Sen. Terry Schaaf, chairman of the public issues committee.

The committee has been working on the report since September and has compiled the report from interviews with individuals connected with the foreign student program and foreign students themselves, according to Schaaf.

"We wanted to see why a problem of housing existed and what could be done about it," he continued. "We have proposed recommendations to the University, the city and the offices of housing and foreign students. If ASUN passes our proposals, we then plan to make sure that the responsible parties do something about the quality of foreign student housing."

Representatives from the city planning department and the University housing office will be present at the meeting, Schaaf said. "One thing we're trying to accomplish through the report," he added is to establish channels of communication between students and the City Council," he added.

## Scripts Ready For KK Show

Scripts are available in the placement office in the Nebraska Union for parts in the Kosmet Klub production "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying."

Tryouts for the major parts, three men and three women, and the 16 supporting parts will be Feb. 17, 18 and 19. The show, which will be held in Pershing Auditorium, is March 25 and 26.

## ASUN To Decide Action On Future Of Handbook

Student Senate Wednesday will decide on which of five steps it should adopt concerning the Committee on Student Affairs' withdrawal of permission to publish the Faculty-Evaluation Book.

Kent Neumeister, president of ASUN, and Ladd Lonquist, chairman of the ASUN Faculty-Evaluation committee, cited the following alternatives:

—The project could be dropped.  
—The project could be modified by publishing only the favorable rating, by not publishing the evaluations but turning them into the instructors, or by having instructors ed.

## Omaha Seniors To Visit Campus

Over 600 seniors from Omaha area public and parochial high schools will find out about college life first hand at the University's Senior Information Day, Saturday.

Students will learn about course work by actually participating in classroom sessions. Classes in history, psychology, languages, science, journalism, mathematics, art and music will be offered. Lunch at the Nebraska Union and a tour of the residence halls on campus will conclude the program.

Students from the following schools will attend:

Bellevue, Boys Town, Millard, Archbishop Ryan, Benson, Central, Holy Name, Burke, Marian, Mercy, North, Cathedral, St. Joseph's, Westside, Papillion, Gretna and students from other schools who were unable to attend previous programs.

—The project could continue without official sanction.  
—The project could be appealed before the Board of Regents.

—Or the project could be done on a commercial basis. "I am sure that the Student Senate will take appropriate action," Lonquist said. "Personally I'm more determined than ever to have the book published," he continued. "I was tremendously disappointed in the decision of the Student Affairs Committee, but not entirely discouraged."

He urged students to proceed in filling out their questionnaires "in the hope that they will be utilized" in publication.

"Fill them out and then return them to the ASUN committee," he stressed. "We anticipate an enthusiastic response to the questionnaires. The evaluation book can be considered everybody's project."

## Swanson Files For Third Term

Clarence Swanson has completed his filing for re-election to a third term on the University's Board of Regents.

Swanson, 66, of Lincoln, represents the First District which includes Lancaster, Johnson, Pawnee, Cass, Otoe, Nemaha and Richardson counties.

He is president of Hovland-Swanson's, a Lincoln ready-to-wear firm.

Swanson was first elected to the Board of Regents in 1954 and was re-elected in 1960. He is currently president of the group.