

PACE proposes student fees go for low-income scholarship

"We've been told that in order to get the Regents to support it we would have to get some show of support from about half the students."

That, according to ASUN senator Steve Fowler, is why a massive petition drive must be started in support of low income scholarships. It will call for a student fee increase to provide needy students with tuition.

The tuition plan, which resulted from a five month study, is called the Program for Active Commitment to Education (PACE). Fowler chaired a five-member ad hoc committee which studied the possibility of using student money for aid. After consulting with students, faculty and administrators the committee drew up a report which received ASUN approval Wednesday.

PACE's proposal calls for a \$3.50 increase in student fees each semester and an extra \$1.75 per summer session. Fowler estimates over \$135,000 could be raised every year. That amount would provide tuition to approximately 250 low-income students. State law dictates that scholarship funds collected by the Regent's power can only be used for tuition.

Scholarship recipients would

be selected by an existing committee in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aids. Federal guidelines would determine a student's eligibility. Appeals could be made to an advisory and review board composed of students. ASUN would probably appoint the board.

According to the PACE report, "substantial cutbacks," in financial aids brought about the need for this proposal. The Director of Scholarships and Financial Aids, Edward Lundak agreed that money was shorter this year than in the past. However, he attributed the shortage mostly to increased numbers of students needing help and higher costs. Lundak cited a lack of summer jobs, farm drought and higher enrollment as prime causes of the problem.

A study done by Haze Pope, coordinator of special programs for low income and minority students, said financial problems prevented many minority students from attending the University this semester.

Financial aids supervisor Fred Anderson also noted that minorities need a great deal of assistance. However, he pointed out that even though most minority students get aid,

the majority of low-income people being helped are white.

If the program succeeds it will not be the first. Student fee money was used temporarily in 1965 when special circumstances called for low-income scholarships.

Fowler believes strong support of PACE by the University community may make some matching federal funds possible. He hopes it would also stimulate additional assistance from state and private sources.

PACE will try to organize student petitioners and speakers at a Thursday night meeting in the Nebraska Union. The committee wants to approach students on a "one-to-one" basis by providing a representative on each dorm floor and in every Greek House. Fowler thinks the biggest difficulty will be in reaching off-campus students.

He hopes prompt actions by students will allow the program to be implemented next semester. The committee feels this could forestall a "potential crisis in scholarship aid."

In Fowler's words, "By joining together with a small contribution we can make a major contribution."

\$135,000 to University

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\$4 million when all of the terms of Mr. Barkley's will are finally met. The money will be used to provide instruction for the deaf and hard of hearing, children with defects of speech, and speech reading for deaf adults.

Chancellor D. B. Varner reported that the series will probably amount to the largest single bequest the University has ever received. The support it will provide can make the University a leading national center of instruction for the acoustically handicapped and those with speech defects.

Robert Perry, a trustee of the Barkley estate, presented a check for \$135,000 to University Regent Edward Schwartzkopf at a Wednesday press conference. Perry said that it is reasonable to expect that the annual gifts, pending the ultimate termination of the trust, will amount to about \$100,000 each year.

Barkley, who died in 1944, was a Lincoln bank and insurance executive. He was instrumental in encouraging Don Love to leave to the University a bequest that made possible the construction of the Don L. Love memorial Library.

Barkley and his wife Edna planned their gift to help both the University and the training of children with defects of speech and hearing. "It was their hope to establish a center

for the training of such teachers at the University as a development of the Lincoln campus. They were both pleased with the results of the Don Love Gift," remarked Perry.

Joseph Soshnik, Lincoln Campus president, said the University programs serving in the instruction of persons with hearing and speech defects will be "given added stimulus and resources" by the Barkley bequest.

He noted three cooperating areas of activity on the Lincoln campuses that relate to instruction in this specialized field:

—The Speech Pathology and Audiology division, headed by Hebert Schliesser, offers undergraduate and graduate programs. About seven of every ten of the division's graduates work with handicapped youngsters in elementary and secondary schools.

—The Midwest Regional Media Center for the Deaf is one of four federally funded programs of its kind in the U.S. The Center, headed by Robert E. Stepp, develops and produces instructional material for use in teaching of the deaf.

—The Educational Psychological Clinic, headed by Marshall S. Hiskey, has evaluated most of the children enrolled in the Nebraska for the Deaf, the Omaha Hearing School, and the special program for the acoustically handicapped in Lincoln's Prescott School.

Soshnik said that for about two years, with the aid of a federal grant, the University has worked to develop a graduate curriculum for the instruction of teachers of the deaf and of the deaf with associated handicaps. He said the support from the Barkley estate could strengthen this, once the program formally approved.

"We deeply appreciate this gift from the Barkley estate," remarked Regent Schwartzkopf. Hopefully, so will handicapped individuals like Danny.



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