

Grading changes raise all-University average

by STEVE STRASSER
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Two grading procedure changes implemented in the 1968 spring semester has produced "beneficial results," according to President Joseph Soshnik.

One change permitted plus grades such as B plus, C plus, etc. The other allowed students to retake courses in which they earned a grade less than C.

"The percentage of undergraduate students in scholastic trouble has dropped from 6.5 per cent in 1968 to 4.8 per cent of the student body at

the close of last semester," Soshnik said in a letter from the President to NU students' parents.

Also, "the number of undergraduates suspended for unsatisfactory scholarship has been cut in half," the letter stated.

Lewis Fowles, associate dean of student academic services, provided further evidence of the changes' effects. The all-University undergraduate grade average was 2.469 in the 1967 fall semester. After the changes, in the 1968 spring semester, the average rose to

2.710. Last semester's average was 2.775.

Professor of Education Royce Knapp chaired the faculty committee which recommended the changes in 1968. He said under the straight ABCDF

grading system, implemented in 1965, as many as 40 per cent of the students in some schools were on academic probation.

One of the proposals his committee considered recommending was a change to the Yale pass-fail honors system of grading.

But the committee recommended the plus system when "we couldn't get all-campus support" for the Yale system.

Before the straight letter system was implemented in 1965 the University used the

stanine, or 9-point method.

Professor of Psychology Frank Dudek, who did research for Knapp's 1968 committee, said the straight letter system was not as flexible as the 9-point system. The plus system reinstated this flexibility.

Dudek said some people thought the plus system would lower grading standards. But the plus system only "communicates the relative differences in grades," he said.

"It doesn't lower our standards."

'Brotherly' love helps escapee return home

Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) Fraternity had an unusual house guest last week — a 24-year-old escapee from the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

However, the man was taken into custody by Lincoln police after fraternity members suspected that he had stolen property from other SAE chapters across the country.

The man, whose name was not released, arrived in Lincoln last Sunday and told fraternity members he was a brother from another state.

However, the fraternity had been informed that a man claiming to be an SAE had stolen property from the Wichita State SAE chapter. The Wichita State chapter provided a description of the man.

Immediately after his arrival, the NU fraternity notified police who took the escapee into custody Sunday afternoon.

"The funny thing," said Paul Hrdy of the NU SAE chapter, "is that the man knew our secret handshake and the fraternity history."

Hrdy said he did not know if the escapee was actually a SAE member.

Upon investigation of the case, officers said they found 17 credit and identification cards on the escapee, reportedly stolen.

Police said they have learned that the man escaped Nov. 1. Since that time he has been traveling around the western part of the U.S., posing as a student while staying at fraternity houses.

Driveway won't cause auto hazards

The driveway under construction east of the library will not be used as a shortcut by administration personnel to reach their parking lot nor will it create a traffic hazard for students going to class, said Ronald W. Wright, assistant director of business and finance.

The new driveway, which opens on R St., will be blocked-off behind Teacher's College, he added.

The \$5,400 driveway is part of the Administration's plan for a pedestrian campus, Wright explained. If all campus through streets are blocked-off, service driveways must connect with bordering streets to accommodate delivery, garbage and fire trucks, he said.

Area 13 parking lot used by administration personnel will be immediately closed if funds are appropriated by the state legislature for a new library addition, said Wright.

The parking lot is the site for the expanded library, which will take about 30 months to construct, he added.

New York black faculty members condemn extradition of Davis

New York (CPS) — The City University of New York's black faculty members has passed unanimously a resolution condemning the present attempts by local and state authorities to extradite Angela Davis to California.

Davis faces murder and kidnapping charges in California.

The resolution, which came out of a two-day conference of black administrators and faculty, stated that the treatment accorded Davis was deplorable and declared "categorical opposition to her extradition for crimes she did not commit."

Telegrams of the resolution were sent to City University's Chancellor Albert H. Bowker, New York City's Mayor John Lindsay, New York's Governor Nelson Rockefeller, California's Governor Ronald Reagan, U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell and President Richard Nixon.

Addison Gill, an English

professor at Bernard M. Barush College and principal author of the resolution, told an audience of over 200 black professionals within CUNY that "no black individual is safe within a society which unleashes pent-up hatred and fears of the white majority on its black citizenry. What is happening to Angela Davis is a crystal clear example."

The Conference, co-sponsored by the faculty group and the Urban League, was the first attempt within the CUNY system to bring together black faculty, administrators and the clerical staff.

Dr. J. Scott Kennedy, an associate professor at Brooklyn College and co-chairman of the conference said, "if we can come together on other things like we're doing with the resolution, we may just begin to determine exactly what our role is, what our responsibility is and what our direction should be as black people within the City University."

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Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 10

NET Broadcast: "The Organization of American States" — 11:30 a.m., Channel 12.
Inter-campus Business Officers Luncheon — 12 noon — Union.
International Luncheon — 12 noon — UMNE.
Hyde Park — 3:30 p.m. — Union.
Union Board Meeting — 4:30 p.m. — rm. 216, Union.
RNA Meeting — 4:30 p.m. — Harper.
Union "Gary Hill—Film Being" — Auditorium — 7 p.m.
Parking Appeals Board — 7 p.m. — rm. 225G, Union.
Zoology Dept. Rap Session — 7 p.m. — rm. 232, Union.
Folk Singing — 10 p.m. — Burr Basement.
AGPA Flight Instructors School — Nebraska Center.
Union Ping Pong Tournament — All day — Conference Rooms.

Peace Fair on Saturday

Nebraskans for Peace is sponsoring an educational Peace Fair Saturday, in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union from noon to 6 p.m.

The Fair will include rock and folk music; films on war, ecology, poverty, etc.

All ages are invited. Admission is \$1. For more information, contact Nebraskans for Peace office, 475-1400.

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