

# Lake eyes changes for Faculty Senate

by Bart Becker

A student-faculty senate merger and reduction of the size of the Faculty Senate are the main goals of the newly-elected president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate.

James A. Lake, a UNL law professor, named these two issues Thursday and touched on several other duties which he felt should be handled by the Faculty Senate President.

The duties of the president of the Senate aren't described in any of the rules passed by the University Senate.

Lake said routine duties the president should take care of were presiding over senate meetings and taking care of some organizational work.

He named several duties which he felt could be handled by the Faculty Senate President to relieve some of the "drudgery" which has been the responsibility of the chancellor (formerly the president).

Said Lake: "When I was elected, the chancellor took care of agendas, minutes, the syllabus of Senate committees, and revisions of committee membership. The president of the senate can take over some of these duties.

"The time the senate is engaged in routine work needs to be kept at a minimum," Lake said. "We've seen a step in this direction in recent years. Committee chairmen are no longer reading full reports. Rather, they are summarizing and copies of all the reports are distributed to members."

A more salient issue, Lake said, is that of enacting some sort of student-faculty governing board merger.

"I think a faculty-student senate is in the future, but the Faculty Senate recently rejected that proposal," he

explained. "In my year in office I intend to work on these problems."

At the campus level, Lake, who has been on the Lincoln campus for 21 years, feels a university senate can become a reality. He noted, however, that "there will always be pure student problems which don't concern the faculty."

"Students, of course, see things from one side and faculty from another," he pointed out. "If students were members of a University Senate it really wouldn't give us any problems."

Lake seemed unconcerned that students' lack of information on some issues might bog down a joint governing group.

"My only experience has been with students on committees," he said. "They realized when they didn't have the knowledge to add to the group. But when they had something to say or add they plugged into the group."

"In fact," he added, "I feel that students are probably reluctant to make their voice heard on committees. They possibly feel inferior when they're surrounded by a few Ph.D.s and a few Deans. I've never had any trouble."

In addition to their rejection of the joint governing body, the Faculty Senate last year rejected a proposal for a representative senate.

There are 907 people on the Senate. Lake described the UNL situation as a "town meeting", and noted that UNO has a representative senate.

The importance of the Senate president is dependent on two factors, according to Lake. One is "the extent to which the Board of Regents looks to that official" and the other is "how the chancellor looks to that official for

advice."

The Faculty Senate President is an ex-officio member of the liaison committee. The senate president and the liaison committee chairman form what Lake calls "a two-pronged spokesman for the faculty."

He noted, however, that when people have to check with two places it can cause some confusion. He said one suggestion, that the President of the Senate also serve as Liaison Committee Chairman, seems like a possibility.

Lake indicated that he is concerned with establishing a rapport with the Student Senate and with the administration.

One of the stumbling blocks he foresees is that he may be involved in many meetings to which he is invited "only because protocol calls for it."

"I'm happy to go if the Senate needs representation but I don't want anybody to think they have to invite me or the Senate will feel slighted," he said. That could be awfully time consuming."



Law professor Lake settles back into his term as Faculty Senate president.

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