

ASUN hears 'advocate' plan

by Carol Strasser

ASUN was prepared to act on a campus ombudsman proposal at Wednesday's meeting until a less-costly plan for a "student advocate" was introduced from the floor.

ASUN Sen. Bill Behmer introduced an ombudsman proposal written by Ed Anson that was different in concept and cost from the proposal submitted by the ASUN Legal Rights Committee. To give Senators time to consider both proposals, action was delayed until next week.

John Humlicek, speaking for the Legal Rights Committee, said ASUN should push for creation of ombudsman position since the University Board of Regents Monday appointed Thomas H. Majeski as ombudsman at University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Majeski served as part-time ombudsman and art professor last year and will now become full-time ombudsman.

THE PROPOSAL introduced by Humlicek calls for the appointment of an ombudsman who "bridges the gap between student services and student complaints." The ombudsman would listen to complaints from students, faculty and administrators; investigate the complaints; act as negotiator and mediator between dissatisfied members and use persuasion to rectify grievances.

The ombudsman would be selected by a committee of student and non-student representatives, serve two years and be paid the salary of an associate professor, approximately \$15,000 a year, Humlicek said.

Anson's proposal calls for a "student advocate," a full-time student in good

academic standing, appointed by ASUN and paid only a nominal fee, if salaried. There are already committees to represent all groups of the community, Anson said, but the students need an advocate who will "take their side in disputes."

THE LEGAL Rights Committee will be researching sources of financial support for its own proposal in the next few weeks.

Final funding for ASUN's budget hasn't been established yet, ASUN Pres. Steve Fowler told the Senate. However, a preliminary budget of about \$32,000 was introduced at the meeting so that several committees would know what their budgets would be, he said. The Senate will act on the budget next week.

The Senate will be conducting interviews in the next four weeks for a Senate vacancy in Teachers College, two in Graduate and Professional Schools and one in the College of Home Economics.

SEVERAL SENATORS volunteered to work with Gerald Bowker, Director of Registration and Records, on a plan to eliminate the long registration lines. According to Fowler, a memo asking for such recommendations by Oct. 15 was sent to Bowker by C. Peter McGrath, interim UNL Chancellor.

Next week ASUN will act on resolutions calling for the Council on Student Life to investigate alternate structures for the Student Health Center and also to hold several ASUN meetings on East Campus.

Last week ASUN passed a resolution reaffirming its support of the PACE scholarship program and asking students to

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ACTIVITIES MART... "Just sign on the dotted line and we'll get in touch with you very soon..."

Nebraskan opens East Campus office

The Daily Nebraskan now has office space on East Campus in room 206, Department of Information.

A drop-box for publishable notices is located outside the door. East Campus writer, Terri Bedient, will be in the

office from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

The Daily Nebraskan will publish any notice of general interest if submitted by 4 p.m. at least two publishing days prior to the date of desired publication.

Brown leaves after decade of change at UNL

by Sara Schwieder

Students may come and go, but Russ Brown has been on the ground floor of many of the developments of the last turbulent decade in higher education at UNL.

As dean for Student Development, Brown has fielded Nebraska's offshoot of

the Student Power Movement and the new demands placed upon the University community by political and social ferment.

He is leaving NU this week to become Vice-President for Student Affairs at the University of North Dakota. His UNL duties will

temporarily be divided between Harry Canon of the Counseling Service and Hal Smith of the Nebraska Union until a successor is named. Ely Meyerson is interim Dean of Student Affairs.

ONE OF BROWN'S primary concerns has been helping minority students attend the University and helping them adjust.

"The minority student question involves more than a 'you can come if you want to' attitude," he said. "There really needs to be an educational effort to stimulate people to understand how racism operates. Much racism is institutionalized and unless people are aware of it they support it unwittingly."

Brown feels the University is not only responsible for opening opportunities to minority students and being hospitable to their needs, but must educate people to the presence and effects of racism. He mentioned a need for increased commitment in this area.

BROWN HELPED organize the Stillman Exchange, which sends four NU students to all-black Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala., in exchange for four Stillman students every semester. Brown thought the Stillman program had been "generally successful" but said it needs to be more fully taken advantage of.

Brown used the word "personal" frequently in his conversation. Perhaps that has been the by-word of his office, because his approach to people--students in

particular--is tailored to the individual and his problems.

"One of the most satisfying aspects of this kind of work has been a good relationship with students and I think they've been mutually satisfied," he noted.

One reason he's moving to the University of North Dakota is to take advantage of a smaller campus.

"IT WILL BE easier to develop and maintain a personal touch with students, which I've tried to do here. It's something I feel is important."

Brown indicated NU is at the brink of change. It can move in the direction of a big, impersonal university and follow the course of many of the enormous and unwieldy land-grant institutions, or it can "go the other way."

Brown's version of "going the other way" is not necessarily limiting enrollment at NU, but developing small communities within the University on the model of Centennial College.

"The advantage of the Centennial College-type program is its size. It's a total experience and has been quite successful. When you gain in size, you lose involvement."

BROWN SEEMED pleased with the direction in which, higher education is headed, describing increased student involvement in the educational structure as "positive." He said Nebraska has benefited from the Student Power Movement on both coasts because Nebraska has been able to avoid the more violent

aspects--as at Cornell--in favor of the experience.

He singled out and praised the NOVA program, which puts students to work in the community for University credit.

"NOVA potentially provides an effective handle for modifying the curriculum...it helps bridge the gap between the theoretical class experience and the real world. I hope the opportunities expand beyond NOVA to the entire University. Brown generally favored loosening up the curriculum by adding independent study, projects and NOVA-type projects, but added that the mechanisms for innovative curricula already exist. He said the University needs to set up a means so every student knows his options and can take advantage of all the opportunities open to him.

AS FOR FACULTY evaluation, Brown said it is undesirable on either side.

"The process of grading is foreign to the educational process...whether it be the faculty member grading the student or the student grading the faculty member."

The faculty is another group Brown singles out for special praise.

"I think the faculty here at NU has done a fine job helping students. There are many knowledgeable and dedicated people on the staff that are concerned about the student and his problems," he said. "Sometimes students don't give them the credit they deserve."

