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ASUN suspends rules, okays Legislative Liaison

by Carol Strasser

ASUN suspended its rules Wednesday to allow the Legislative Liaison Committee to begin lobbying with state senators for a set of student priorities in the University's 1972-73 budget request.

The number one priority of students, according to the Committee's report, is to alleviate "the unbearable conditions of the library system." Other priorities include reduction of class size and new buildings for the law college, home economics and life sciences.

Because the Unicameral will begin discussing the University budget request soon, ASUN Pres. Steve Fowler asked the Senate to approve the Liaison Committee report this week so that student lobbyists can begin to seek backers for the student priorities.

The committee report, submitted by chairman Meg Hall, states that the major emphasis in the budget request "should be on improving the quality of undergraduate education" at the University.

In the plans for the library system, the report calls for completion of the planned addition to Love Library, stating that by September there will be no book space remaining in the library. It also calls for consolidation of the card catalogs in the near future and grouping of all staff functions on one floor.

The hiring of more faculty and staff personnel would allow class sizes to be reduced and would increase student-faculty discussion, the report said. Using figures from

1970, the report said one-third of a student's time is spent in classes of 100 or more.

The present Law College Building houses a law library which the report states is "42 per cent below minimum accreditation requirements in terms of seating capacity."

Although there is a shortage of practicing lawyers in Nebraska, the lack of space in the law college limits the number of students and, over the past year, forced the college to deny admission to 500 qualified applicants, the report said.

The site of the proposed new law building is on East Campus along with other professional schools.

The report calls the present Home Economics Building "generally unsafe," and points out that it lacks classroom space and its design restricts departmental interaction.

Bessey Hall, the Life Sciences Building, was built in 1917 and can't keep pace with the "changes occurring in science education and the expanding student demand," according to the report.

The 22-member Liaison Committee attempts to reflect the student point of view on bills that come before the Legislature, Hall said. The committee researches bills that may concern students, and ASUN decides where the committee will concentrate its lobbying efforts.

Since ASUN is a corporation, it can't lobby, Fowler said. However, the

committee will register about four students as lobbyists with the Legislature, Hall said.

At its next meeting on Dec. 1, ASUN will consider a bill which would set aside \$1,000 in non-student fee money to supply loans to women who want an abortion but can't afford the transportation or medical costs.

Credit union would offer low interest student loans

by Linda Larson

A student credit union on the UNL campus may become a reality by second semester, ASUN Sen. Phil Lamb said in an interview Tuesday.

Lamb is one of several students working on plans for the credit union.

Explaining how the union would work, Lamb said people would buy shares in it for about \$5. All members could then borrow money at 1 per cent interest, he said.

The terms of the loans would be decided by the board of directors but the maximum amount that can be borrowed would probably be no more than \$300, Lamb said.

Organization continues for PIRG force

An estimated 80 college students representing nearly every college in the state met here Saturday to organize the Nebraska division of PIRG (Public Interest Research Group).

The organization, modeled after consumer protectionist Ralph Nader's program, will work for changes in environmental quality, consumer protection, racial and sexual discrimination, occupational safety and housing problems.

Schools represented at the state wide meeting were Wayne State College; Creighton University; Concorcia College, Seward; Midland College, Fremont; Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln; Kearney State College; Dana College, Blair; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; College of St. Mary, Omaha; and University of Nebraska-Omaha.

There will be another statewide meeting next Saturday, November 20, in the Student Union at 1:00 p.m.

The temporary office of the Nebraska division of PIRG, or NEB-PIRG, is located at 3701 N. 24 in Omaha. The telephone number is 457-7729 if you have any questions.

Wolff outlines regional jail concept

The regional jail concept - possibly the route Nebraska will take in prison reform - was outlined by State Penal Complex Warden Charles Wolff at Wednesday night's University chapter meeting of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalism society.

This plan, as Wolff explained it, would center around several correctional institutions around the state designed to treat the majority of offenders, those in for bad checks or third offense drunk driving, for example.

Regional jails would be large enough to make it economically feasible to offer programs in educational development, vocational training, counseling and on-the-job training, he said.

This concept, according to Wolff, would allow inmates to circulate back into the community as quickly as possible in work-lease type programs.

"This is the best possible

plan we can develop," the warden said.

The transitional period when inmates are being cycled back into the community is a difficult one, he asserted. They lack self confidence, he said, adding a work release program where inmates assume their own financial and personal responsibility has "a great deal of meaning."

Wolff said building regional jails would be expensive (costing possibly as much as \$50 million), but development would be gradual, taking as long as 10 years.

The legislature's judiciary committee is currently working on formulating a comprehensive penal reform plan, tentatively to be set in motion by 1975.

Wolff said this date is deceptive, in that it may appear the legislature will just sit around for a couple of years. But money should be appropriated during the next session to finance development of a penal reform plan, he said.

Computer center urges increased student use

Computer facilities in Nebraska Hall are available to all students and departments, but people are not using them enough, according to Jim Selzer, a programmer for the University Computing Center.

Students in engineering and graphics classes, courses oriented for use of the computer, have taken advantage of the center, Selzer said. Students from non-technical disciplines can also learn to use the facilities.

Information, advice and limited consultation with a programmer are available. Legisform, a booklet prepared for the Nebraska Legislature, shows students how to write a basic program. Bill drafting for the Unicameral is now done by the University center, Selzer said.

Agriculture students have used the computer to figure time and cost of equipment and seed for a Nebraska farm. The operator of the farm was able to increase his income \$6,000 to \$15,000 by planting the crops the students recommended.

Use of the computer is available to all state agencies, Selzer said. A contract with the State Game Commission is being negotiated to study the impact of building highways through park areas. The center has plotted physicians-per-county density maps for the comprehensive health planning district.

Students preparing a thesis or dissertation can transfer their material to key punch cards and the computer will print the paper with footnotes in the appropriate places and justified margins.

The computing center is part of a network that includes hookups with UNO and the University Medical Center, Selzer said. Computer time is available to individuals at \$400 per hour, he said. But job time for a single program is relatively inexpensive, he noted.



Delta Sigma Pi "pledge" . . . Thor, 3-month-old lion, and master Jim Kerley.