

Zumberge supports equal rights plan

An attempt to revive the year-old proposal for a Committee on Equality to fight discrimination at UNL has the backing of Chancellor James Zumberge.

Mike Berns, member of the ASUN Human Rights Committee, discussed plans for implementing the proposal with him, and Zumberge said, "I see no reason why things should come unglued now."

Berns Thursday presented the proposal to the Council on Student Life, (CSL), and said he plans to submit it to the Faculty Senate Human Rights Committee for review.

Since Zumberge supports the proposal it could probably go into effect now, Berns said, but "realistically it should have the approval of CSL and the Faculty Senate."

The proposal was presented in May, 1971, to former UNL President Joseph Soshnik by his *ad hoc* non-discrimination Committee. It was designed to implement recommendations of a discrimination report by John Robinson, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In a letter to the committee chairmen last May, Soshnik said he was sending copies to be distributed to the Board of Regents with his suggestion that the proposal be discussed with the regents "at the earliest possible time."

James Lake, president of the Faculty Senate, suggested the proposal might have been dismissed as a duplication of effort. About five months ago Barbara Coffee was hired as an assistant to the NU president on equal opportunity, he said.

No action was taken on the proposal because some thought it should be included in the new regents by-laws being drafted by the University Governance Committee, Lake said.

However, the by-laws are broad rules, and specifics concerning committees will be written by each campus, he added.

Coffee works in the NU systems office to establish an affirmative action program in compliance with federal regulations involving the recruitment of minority group members and female employees, Zumberge said.

Since the sections of the proposal

dealing with employment practices have been deleted, Berns said effort won't be duplicated. He said he has talked with Coffee and has her approval of the proposal.

In addition to a Committee on Equality, the proposal would establish a Judicial Board on Equality. The purpose of the committee and board is to carry out a policy of striving "actively to build a community in which opportunity is equalized."

The policy prohibits discrimination which would limit access to participation in education, social, cultural or other University activities because of race, creed, ethnic origin or sex.

The policy would apply to all educational, cultural and social activities at UNL, University-sponsored programs off-campus and housing supplied or regulated by the University.

The Committee on Equality would be composed of two faculty members, two administrative-professional members, four student members and one member chosen at large from the University community.

The committee is charged with identifying policies or practices which may reflect discrimination and recommending corrective action.

Any individual or group may file a complaint of discrimination with the committee, and the committee will investigate the complaint if no satisfactory corrective action is taken by those responsible.

The committee can initiate a hearing before the judicial board if the discriminatory action isn't corrected "without delay."

The judicial board would be composed of seven members. At least three members would be students, at least two would be female members and at least two members would be from minority groups.

At the judicial board's formal hearings, all parties could be represented by counsel at the expense of the University and would have the right to question witnesses and to present evidence.

Recommendations by the judicial board would be referred to the chancellor for appropriate action.

Although Zumberge said he is generally in favor of the proposal, he would have to see in what form it is presented to him before acting on it.



Bottoms Up ... spring is sprung, grass is riz, and here's where all the squirrels is.

Health Center leads nation

"UNL is a national leader in the field of involving students in the medical-legal line of health care distribution," according to Ian M. Newman of the UNL Health Center.

Newman and Gary L. Martin of the UNL center present reports on student involvement in health care at the American College Health Association's 50th annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., last week.

Martin and Newman reported on recent studies of the student Health Aide program. Martin explained that UNL is a "leader" both because it is one of the first to use student aides and because the University is being used as an example by many other schools around the country.

Health Aides are students in the various living units who are trained to handle many routine and minor health problems, provide first aid care, refer

patients to the Health Center and carry on a health education program.

Martin and Newman noted that the Health Aide coverage has now been expanded to practically all the on-campus student population. They also said the medical staff of the Health Center is convinced that the student Health Aides are worth their cost in the student health program which is financed through student fees.

The program originated in 1957 and the original goal was to save money. Martin explained that "the program gained real impetus in the flu epidemics of 1957 when the Health Center couldn't handle the problem. The program was really born out of crisis."

Martin and Newman cited figures from a three-month period in 1970 during which it was calculated that the average cost of a student visit to a Health Aide was about \$1.12, while the average cost per outpatient visit at the Health Center was \$3.03.

The Health Aides are students employed by the Health Center, responsible to the professional staff. Martin likened them to para-medics or physicians' assistants.

Dr. Carmen H. Grant, Dr. K.O. Hubble, and nurse Carol Helm presented a report describing the use of

students in the Crisis Health Aide program. They described the program as an outgrowth of the Health Aide program.

Grant explained that the program is "a mental health outreach, and the focus is much more specific than the Health Aide program." The Crisis Health Aide Center provides both telephone and walk-in service designed to supplement regular mental health services during the hours of 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The center opened in April, 1971, after selection and training of a group of student aides. The students go through a series of training sessions to learn crisis techniques and role-playing and have in-service training programs, according to Grant.

The Crisis Health Aide Center is primarily concerned with problems stemming from emotional crises, but it also provides aid in cases involving a medically-related crisis and general information. Originally set up as an emotional crisis intervention program, its function broadened into these other areas because of demand.

Grant explained that the program is currently attempting to expand its services to handle off-campus as well as on-campus students.