

Regents shuffle Student Affairs brass

It would make Isaac Newton proud.

His theory that every action causes another reaction has rung true again, but on a different level: the UNL Office of Student Affairs.

The August appointment of Ken Bader as vice chancellor for Student Affairs has triggered a chain reaction which has shuffled University officials as if they were playing musical chairs, dropping three high-level administrators into new positions. Students, administrators say, are better off for it.

The three administrators, Ely Meyerson, Hal Smith and Harry Canon, served in interim positions last year.

Their new positions are, respectively, administration dean for Student Affairs, director of Student Development programs and director of Student Development services. Meyerson's position was newly created, while the others divide the duties of the former dean of Student Development.

The appointments increase by two the number of upper-echelon officials in Student Affairs.

The job changes will benefit students, according to Meyerson. He called the creation of the two new posts "a recognition by the UNL administration of support for Student Affairs and students."

In his new position, Meyerson will direct the office's fiscal affairs and take on special assignments made by Bader. He formerly was interim dean of Student Affairs.

Smith agreed with Meyerson. "With the new setup we can give attention to



planning of Student Development programs."

Programming over the last year suffered from "interim tentativeness" and therefore officials were leary of making long-range plans, Smith said.

The Office of Student Development previously encompassed ten departments. Terming that arrangement "too broad a span of control," he said the new division of duties would balance the administrative work load better.

Smith and Canon hold responsibilities identical to those they held in their interim positions.

Smith heads the Student Activities office, foreign student office, Greek and co-op living and student recreation.

Canon is chief administrator for financial aids, counseling, examination and placement. In addition, he directs the discipline office.

He said his office is working on several new programs, including budgeting information for low-income students, career counseling and a new student disciplinary code and judicial system.

He said his office is trying to develop a pattern of programs and services which will contribute to the quality of student life.

"What we want to do," he said, "is increase the student's ability to help others. I know that sounds like a bunch of bull, but I believe it."

Meyerson declined to reveal plans for his office, saying he wanted to discuss them with Bader before making any announcement. Smith also refused to comment on future plans in his office.

All three permanent appointments were made by the Board of Regents at their August meeting.

Turn inside ▾