

ASUN submits student fee plan

by Bart Becker

The status of a proposal which could potentially place responsibility for allocating student fee monies primarily in the hands of student-dominated groups appeared indefinite earlier this week.

The uncertain state of much of the proposal seems to be a result of confusion among some of those involved with it.

The new proposals outlined in an ASUN document suggest fee monies be funneled by ASUN. This, the document contends, would "provide a means for student determination of the use of student fee monies." In addition it would insure that the monies are used as intended, the document continues.

ASUN currently is allocated \$1.60 from each student's fees each year, netting \$39,000 annually for student government.

Under the proposal, ASUN would assume responsibility for allocating all student fees except those earmarked for student health services. That would leave approximately \$650,000 yearly which would be channeled through ASUN.

ASUN president Bruce Beecher indicated earlier this week that he would "try to move" the proposal through channels. A different proposal was presented to the Board of Regents at its August meeting, but regents asked that more work be done on the administrative end of the proposal, according to Beecher.

That proposal has been effectively dormant since that time due to individual absences. Both Beecher and UNL Chancellor James Zumberge have been gone for the past few weeks.

John Stevens, assistant to the chancellor, said no action is planned on the greater part of the proposal. However, Stevens said that after the August regents' meeting, the board showed major concern for the status of student health services. A task force to work on student health organizational problems will be set up in the near future, he said.

Virginia Trotter, vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs, will head the fact-finding task force. Its composition will likely be one representative each, from student health, ASUN, the faculty liaison committee, and, hopefully, a representative

from the city's hospitals, according to ASUN second vice-president Michelle Gagne.

The ASUN proposal suggests that its senate be held ultimately responsible for the use and accountability of funds. In addition, guidelines will be provided for groups requesting allocations from the Senate Budget Committee (SBC).

The SBC would be responsible to the senate for the implementation of policy, as well as for updating and recommending changes to it. That agency would also be responsible for providing public notice of budget filing deadlines and conducting public hearings on fund requests.

All agencies, including those presently funded, would be responsible for preparation and submission of budgets to the SBC. Failure to comply with procedures could result in suspension of remaining funds.

The SBC would consist of the speaker pro tem of the ASUN senate, two senators elected by the senate, and two senators appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate. In addition, the proposal calls for the following individuals to serve in an advisory, non-voting capacity: the coordinator of student activities, the vice chancellor of student affairs, and the comptroller.

The proposal also calls for formation of a University Funding Review Board (UFRB) consisting of three faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate and three administration members appointed by the chancellor.

The primary purpose of that Board would be to review all general budgetary allocations which were recommended by the SBC and passed by the senate. The UFRB may veto allocations to any agency, activity, or organization and make recommendations as to the amount of money each group should receive. If vetoed, the budget will return to the senate which may either adopt it according to UFRB recommendations, or overrule the veto by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership.

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