

Regents approve modified bylaws

The Board of Regents ignored most faculty and student requests Friday and unanimously approved a slightly modified version of the University bylaws.

The bylaws are the University governing regulations. They originally were written by the University Governance Committee, which was composed of students, faculty, administrators and private citizens.

At a Thursday open hearing on the regulations, faculty representatives complained that the document didn't adequately protect academic freedom or the rights of untenured faculty members.

The board yielded little on this major sore spot in the regulations: faculty civil rights.

As approved, the document says staff members can't be fired, have salary withheld or lose their position because of "their enjoyment or exercise of their right of academic freedom or in any case where such action would constitute a violation of the Civil Right acts . . . and would provide a basis for a cause of action . . ."

Faculty representatives had requested that the board reinsert the original language of the section which included reaffirmation of "their rights as a citizen of the United States and of the State of Nebraska."

The board reinstated the right to academic freedom, but not the section upholding the faculty's rights as citizens.

The language adopted by the board was a UNL Faculty Senate compromise proposal.

If an untenured faculty member's appointment is terminated, the reason need not be given, according to the new bylaws. The regents struck the section which granted a person such a right and refused to replace it despite faculty demands.

The board, however, sided with the UNL Faculty Senate recommendations and added wording to make persons bring charges against a staff member responsible "for the burden of proof, reaffirming that a person is innocent until proven guilty."

But student legal rights didn't fare so well in the final revisions of the document. Under the new regulations, a student does not have the right to a hearing if charges brought against him don't specify suspension or expulsion from the University as punishment for breaking a University regulation. Such hearings traditionally have been allowed by the University.

Following the recommendations of UNL Chancellor James Zumberge, the regents changed the bylaws and granted specific powers to the ombudsman.

Zumberge's amendment establishes confidentiality in all the ombudsman's dealings. It further provides that the official shall "discover patterns of (administrative) malfunctionings" and suggest reforms.

ASUN President Bruce Beecher's proposal, which would have required balanced conferences and speakers throughout the year, was rejected by the board. The proposal only would have affected student fee funded activities.

In their final form, the regulations say students "shall be allowed to invite and hear any person of their own choosing."

daily nebraskan

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college's name will be changed to the College of Engineering and Technology.

The board also accepted bids for the new addition to UNL's Love Library. The cost of the building originally was estimated at about

\$3.2 million, but the bids only totaled slightly more than \$3 million.

Zumberge said the balance of the appropriated funds will be used for equipment. To do so, though, requires state approval, he said.

The board also directed its property committee to meet with a group of Lincoln residents who are seeking an Olympic-size swimming pool in the soon to be built UNL field house.

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