

Fee recommendations get mixed reactions from UNL top brass

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allocation process framed by ASUN last summer. The process would have an ASUN committee decide fee allocation and an appellate board of faculty and administrators with the power to veto. The senate could overrule the veto with a two-thirds majority, in which case the UNL chancellor would decide.

The ASUN plan is patterned after the Legislature, Beecher said, and "puts control of student fees in student hands" while allowing for some administrative guidance.

Beecher also said he objected to the secrecy of the task force meetings.

He'd requested to talk to the board once, and was refused, he said.

Wait and see

Union Director Al Bennett said he's adopted a "wait and see" attitude.

"I question the advisability of creating an uncertain position relative to continuing funds," Bennett said. "But I can work with the board, depending on the degree of involvement (in Union administration decisions) the board will take.

"(Too much involvement) supplants one of the principle policies of the Union Board (in their governing code) which is to set policy for this



Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett

building, including house rules, space assignments and all work within the building," he said.

He also said the zero-based budget would make it hard to retain staff.

Art Thompson, assistant director of programming for the Union, said the Union Program Council receives about \$105,000 yearly, or not quite half of the total Union fees.

Allocations

Thompson said he favors opening fees to new groups, but questions the proposed budget schedule in the task force recommendations.

The force recommends budgets be submitted to the Allocations Board by March 10. The board would review the requests, call open hearings and decide the allocations by April 11-16. Groups could appeal until May 15, when the allocations will be final. The Board of Regents would approve the allocations in their June meeting.

Year-end reports (beginning the summer after the first July-June 30 year the Allocations Board operated) would be due by Sept. 1.

This summer work would make it hard for students who help plan programming, Thompson said.

"It could be done, but it would mean long distance calls and time delays," he said.

Ballot question

Thompson said he disagrees with students passing an interview to be placed on the ballot, and that ASUN, which also receives fees, would be part of the group choosing the candidates.

Daily Nebraskan Editor Tom Lansworth said the report would affect the paper, which now runs on a semester basis. The report recommends that all groups operate on a yearly budget.

"Also, if we were forced to show a profit on any project to have it refunded," Lansworth said, "it may mean the end to something innovative, like the Friday magazine."

He said he disagrees with the proposed appeals process. In effect, he said, a dissatisfied group appealing to the same board (the Allocations Board) that refused their request initially.

The report sets up an appellate board, but it has only recommendation powers to the Allocations Board.



Art Thompson, assistant director of programming for the Nebraska Union

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