

Board of Regents, legislators need students' opinions

The following opinion was submitted by the ASUN Legislative Liason Committee, which is charged with maintaining communication between the Unicameral and the UNL student body.

From the time you say your first Pledge of allegiance in kindergarten until the time you say one of your last at an American Association of Retired People meeting you are taught, in this country, that government is something that you should be in awe of, something larger than yourself that you can have little direct influence on.

The fact of the matter is, however, that you as an individual can have a great deal of impact on the decisions our representatives make. Speaking specifically of the Nebraska Legislature, the average legislator has no real way of knowing what the people, who he represents, want him to do unless someone tells him.

That's why professional lobbyists have so much impact and that's why most senators are so desperate to hear from you.

Right now there are six bills before the Legislature that will directly affect you as a student.

At 2 p.m. today in 1009 Capitol Building, the Constitutional Revision Committee will hold a public

suggestion box

hearing on a proposed constitutional amendment that would place students on the Board of Regents.

The bill was proposed by the ASUN Legislative Liaison Committee and was introduced by Sen. Richard Marval of Hastings. Putting students on the board with voting power will give students a direct voice into the governing of the University. Come to the hearing even if you don't intend to speak. Your presence will directly influence the way the committee members vote.

Next Wednesday the Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on possible capital construction on campus. If you're tired of classes in Bessey Hall or the Law College, here's your chance to explain your problems to someone who can do something about it.

Bills which have had public hearings but are still pending in committees include:

-The governor's proposed tuition increase. This would increase payments by 25 to 33 per cent or an increase of \$10. for 15 credit hours per year.

-the Uniform Residential Landlords and Tenants Act will safeguard you as an off-campus tenant from unfair practices by landlords. If you know specific cases where you've been ripped off by a landlord, the senators need to know about it.

-Sen. James Dickinson's bill which would stop the collection of student fees except for those fees which are used to pay bonded indebtedness on buildings. Proponents of the bill see it as a slick way to get the "homosexuals and communists" off campus, unfortunately at the expense of destroying the

Nebraska Union, Intramurals and Recreation, Student Health, the Daily Nebraskan and ASUN.

-Sen. Ernest Chambers' bill which would increase the minimum wage in Nebraska and would take students off the list of those to whom employers are not required to pay minimum wages.

At 1 p.m. Saturday the Board of Regents meets in the new NU Systems Building on East Campus. Unless students show their concern, it looks like the regents will reject a proposed alcohol consumption on campus plan, an expanded coed visitation plan and, at the same time, will increase the dormitory room and board rates.

If you don't like that, get your body down there and let them know it. So forget what you've been taught for the last 20 years or so. No matter who you are, Robert Lamb is right, you can make it happen.



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