

## Senators criticize legal aid program

The recently-approved Legal Aid to Students Office drew fire from senators at Wednesday's ASUN Senate meeting.

The debate came during a Legal Rights Committee report on steps which remain to be taken to implement the program.

Pointing particularly to the lawyer's inability to litigate cases, Sen. Brian Wade said he was disappointed with the limited amount of use students will be getting out of their lawyer.

Sen. Dave Thurber, a legal rights committee member, spoke in defense of the program. Thurber asserted the lawyer would be valuable in counseling students preparing to appear in small claims court, counseling students on paralegal matters, and as an educational experience. "though perhaps a rather expensive one."

Wade also expressed concern for the "vagueness" of the lawyer's duties as defined by the proposal.

Legal Rights Committee Chairman Jed Buechler said he would work to get the greatest possible student benefit out of the lawyer's contract.

Wade also criticized the choice of student members for the panel to interview applicants for the position of student attorney.

The interview panel was to consist of three students picked by the president of ASUN, one administration representative, and one member of the legal profession. ASUN President Ann Henry asked the senate to confirm Buechler, Thurber, and Sen. Larry Hill, all Legal Rights Committee members, as student representatives.

"In all fairness to students, I think it would be advisable to hold interviews for the panel positions," Wade said.

Wade then made a motion to add a fourth student to the panel, with the understanding that the student would not be a senator.

Wade's motion passed 19-4, with two abstentions. Buechler, Thurber, and Hill were confirmed as panel members.

daily nebraskan

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