

# Faculty benefits from book discounts

By Rebecca Ross

Unlike the old saying, all university employes, faculty members and students aren't created equal. At least not when it comes to discounts at area bookstores.

According to the UNL employes handbook, faculty and staff members are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on all purchases at the University Bookstore in the Nebraska Union and Nebraska Hall.

Besides the University Bookstore, most bookstores in Lincoln give faculty members a 10 per cent discount, according to John Wehr, Nebraska Book Store manager.

John Stafford, manager of the University Bookstore, which is operated by the UNL Office of Business and Finance, said the discounts began years ago when professors, reviewing books for classes, had to buy their own copies.

Stafford said this went on for some years, but now, he said, the major publishing companies will provide professors with complimentary copies of textbooks.

"Now all a professor has to do," Stafford said, "is to write to a publisher, tell him he will be teaching 500 or 2,000 students and request a copy of a book."

Stafford said the discount is now considered a fringe benefit for faculty and staff members.

He said the discount doesn't cause the price of books to be higher for students, because publishers set book prices.

The amount of income the discount takes away from the store, he said, is negligible and he said if discounts were discontinued this wouldn't cause the price of books for students to drop.

Last year, the Nebraska Union Board, investigating bookstore operations, studied the possibility of eliminating these discounts.

Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, says he thinks the discounts should be discontinued.

"It is a question of equality between the students, faculty and staff," Bader said. "I don't think this special privilege should be granted to one group and not another."

Wehr said the Nebraska Book Store has "seriously

considered dropping the discounts."

But for his store, he said, it is a question of competition.

"We can't eliminate the discounts unless other stores do," Wehr said.

He said faculty members are his store's best customers because unlike students, who buy mainly text books, professors buy more fiction and non-fiction books from the general book department.

"We couldn't maintain our present inventory without the faculty buying these books," Wehr said.

Wehr also said eliminating the discounts wouldn't affect book prices.

But, Wehr said, "if we got rid of faculty discounts, we could use the time and money saved to improve such things as our special order services."

## Future pharmacists study communication

Pharmacy 523 is a new course at UNL. Its instructor, Gail Dunning, counseling psychologist at the UNL counseling center, said the course is designed to provide education for prospective pharmacists in an area which he said "has previously been lacking"—communication skills.

About 25 students are enrolled in the two credit hour course that meets Monday and Friday mornings at Selleck Quadrangle.

According to Dunning, the class is based on lectures and discussions of aspects of communicating with doctors, patients and others with whom pharmacists may come in contact.

The class is composed mostly of freshman, but upperclassmen also are enrolled in it, Dunning said.

He said the course, which can be taken only on a pass/fail basis, will cover such areas as human interaction, study skills and group dynamics in addition to strictly communication skills.

## '73 membership up for greeks

UNL Greeks experienced an increase in membership this year, according to Sharon Gerwick, graduate assistant in the office of the Coordinator of Fraternities, Sororities and Cooperatives.

Gerwick said 491 women participated in rush this year. Another 60 who applied either dropped out of rush or didn't qualify because of low grades. Out of the 491 women Gerwick said 434 of the 491 were pledged.

Last year 470 women participated in rush and 376 pledged.

Rachel Jensen, Interfraternity Council secretary, said fraternities also increased membership. This year 530 men pledged compared with 524 in 1972.

## Swim classes

Swimming classes will be taught at the Abel-Sando pool, Monday through Thursday, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. For further information contact the Office of Recreation and Intramurals, 1740 Vine.

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