

# CSL to study enrollment decline

By Ken Merlin

UNL Chancellor James Zumberge, reportedly concerned over the decline in student enrollment this fall, said that at least some of these students failed to return because they are "disenchanted."

It was revealed at Thursday's Council on Student Life (CSL) meeting that Zumberge had launched an investigation on at least two fronts. According to CSL member Hall Smith, Harry Allen, director of Institutional Research and Planning, is surveying students who didn't return to find out why.

In addition, CSL approved the chancellor's request to look into the University community for reasons behind the decline in enrollment. CSL Chairman Don Shaneyfelt announced he will appoint three CSL members this week to assign tasks for an investigating task

force. The scope of the task force already extends beyond traditional limits of CSL interest because it will probe into the academic areas as well.

What UNL "community" will the CSL task force be charged to investigate? Is it the students and faculty alone or does the community include the staff and the Board of Regents?

According to Ken Bader, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, the concept of community at UNL is confused by its varied localities City Campus, East Campus or the Lincoln Community and by each individual's sense of community.

Thus, the community to be investigated depends upon the degree of perception of the "disenchanted" student which possibly includes the

administration and staff.

Ideally, there shouldn't be any conflict between the students, faculty and staff, or so it would seem.

But Bader said a conflict developed with the lowering of majority age which now occurs in the sophomore year. The expectations of the students of majority age conflict with the traditional "substitute parent" role of the University.

Bader cited as evidence present issues such as the right to alcohol on campus and student control of visiting hours in the dormitories. He also said conflicts exist in financial aid and legal requirements for students.

"It seems as though we extended the privilege (by law), and yet we didn't in the minds of the people," he said.

## Editor's note

Today EXTRA examines the concept of community as it relates to UNL. We discovered a community of students, faculty and staff.

Mark Hoeger, ASUN first vice president (see page 4) urges students to find a sense of community through involvement in ASUN.

In the above story by Ken

*"substitute parent". The nature of the conflict is such that the student's sense of community involves student rights and a desire to take part in decisions which affect the academic world.*

*We also talk to Vernon Williams, director of the Counseling Center, who says students want smaller learning centers to increase involvement and a community atmosphere.*

*Centennial College, an experimental program now in its fifth year, is viewed by writer Dianne Barry on the topic of its community development.*

## EXTRA!

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