

## 'Bankrupt Semester' proposal studied

By Susanne Schafer

Marilyn's younger brother was killed in a car accident in early September. By November, things were a little more normal around the house, and she didn't have to go home as much. But she found that she had trouble concentrating, and her grade point average was in danger of plummeting. She wanted to go to medical school some day, but other things seemed to need her attention, and she felt like she was caught in a bind.

It's a hypothetical situation, but students with similar plights have come to the attention of one ASUN senator, and he intends to do something about it.

Jim Macomber, a sophomore in Teachers College, said a lot of students have spoken with him about problems they have with drop and add and Ds and Fs that remain on their records.

A "semester bankruptcy" system is one answer to some of these problems, Macomber said, and he has formed an ASUN Senate committee to report on the possibility of initiating the system on the UNL campus.

"Semester bankruptcy entails wiping the academic slate clean for a semester of grades. It can be used only once," Macomber said.

"If a student had a really crummy semester because of personal or emotional problems, and if he is in a major requiring good grades, like pre-dentistry or pre-med, he could get rid of the bad grades for that semester," Macomber said.

Presently, he said, the only alternative a student has is to take the courses over again. Even if the student receives As, the poorer grades remain on the transcript, though they are not counted in the student's grade point average, he said.

No formal study is being made, Macomber said. He is working with the Faculty Senate Grading Committee in researching problems and possible solutions, he said.

On a smaller scale, Macomber said his committee is also looking into "class bankruptcy," or the removal of incomplete grades, Ds and Fs.

Supposedly, Macomber said, incomplete grades are to be completed within two years, but he said his committee has learned of cases where the time period has been extended.

"Again, it is the same problem. A student may take a class over, and receive the highest grade, but the previous low or failing grade remains on the transcript. It just doesn't look good," he said.

If the drop-and-add period were extended to the last day of classes, as on the UNO campus, students would have more choice in accepting or rejecting their semester's performance without it showing on their record, he said.

His committee is scheduled to report to the ASUN Senate by March 1, but "due to the extent of the subject," Macomber said he may have to continue his study into the fall.

## Errors on scholarships cause tuition overcharge

About 170 UNL students have errors on their tuition statements because the value of the students' scholarships has been added to tuition charges instead of being deducted from them, according to UNL Bursar James Wickless.

The Daily Nebraskan learned of the error when one student reported a tuition bill of more than \$600, although the University should owe him money.

The value of the scholarship was added in the charge column instead of the credit column.

Wickless said if a student has the amount of a scholarship charged against him, he should double the amount of the scholarship and subtract that from the total tuition charge.

## daily nebraskan

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