



Law College professors to take leaves of absence: Lawrence Berger, Brian Mattis, John Snowden and Harvey Perlman.

Law students worry about professors' exodus

By Mark Hoffman

Leaves of absence to be taken next year by four of the 18 UNL Law College faculty members are adding to law students' anxieties about the college's future. Especially when "there is a real fear that of the four leaving, none of them will ever come back," said June Wagoner, a freshman law student.

In two UNL Law College meetings a few weeks ago, faculty members and some of the about 450 law students came together to talk about the college's future.

Students complained about not enough money for the law library, the need for extra law courses and for clinical programming where students handle actual cases under the supervision of a lawyer. But the foremost worry of many students has been the college's problem of getting and keeping a good faculty.

The four professors, Lawrence Berger, Brian Mattis, Harvey Perlman and John Snowden, are to take 1-year leaves of absence.

According to Law College Dean Henry Grether, this means the professors are leaving with the intention of returning.

But one of the four doesn't plan on doing that.

Mattis, a UNL law professor for five years, said that although he is technically on a leave of absence, "I don't intend to come back."

He and his wife have been hired by Southern Illinois University. Mattis' salary there will be more than the second highest faculty salary paid at the UNL Law College, he said. His wife's associate professor salary will be comparable to a full professor's salary at UNL, he added.

Salaries at the UNL Law College range from \$15,750 for assistant professor Craig Williams to \$30,500 for Grether, the college dean. (He also teaches half-time.) The highest salaries for professors are David Dow's (\$29,225) and James Lake's (\$27,000).

Lawrence Berger, a UNL law professor for 14 years, will go on a leave of absence to the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA).

Asked if he would take a job offered to him there or return to Nebraska, he said, "Life is full of uncertainties," and declined further comment.

He confirmed that his wife, an attorney, has a job with a firm in Los Angeles.

Perlman, a UNL law professor for seven years, will go to the University of Virginia. His salary there will be about \$6,000 to \$7,000 higher than it is at UNL, he said. His salary this year is \$20,850.

Asked if he would accept a job offer there or return to Nebraska, he said, "I don't know...Virginia hasn't offered one" beyond the one year.

Money would not be the only consideration in taking a job if it were offered, he said. He and his wife are both from Lincoln, and they have ties here, he said.

Snowden, a UNL law professor for two years, will go to Harvard for a special 1-year course. He said he intends to come back.

Students said they are concerned about losing some of the best law professors at UNL. Last year Berger and Mattis were selected by Law College upperclassmen as two of four nominees from which for the college's representative as outstanding professor. This year Perlman and Mattis were two of three nominees for the same honor.

Wagoner complained that the state does not adequately finance the UNL Law College even though Nebraska draws most from this school.

Grether noted that excluding Omaha, 80% of Nebraska's lawyers are UNL Law College graduates.

UNL just can't compete nationally with other good law schools for salaries, Grether said. Of law schools in this area, including Big 8 law colleges, UNL ranks near the bottom in the average salary paid.

The average salary for the nine full professors (excluding Grether and Assistant Dean Donald Shaneyfelt) is about \$24,519. The average salary of 18 UNL law faculty members is \$22,613.

Two professors Alan Saltzman and Ronald Allen, are not included in this average. Saltzman has a special grant account and Allen is on a special line budget, a law college secretary said.

Grether said a listing of the law college salaries at other schools was not for publication. He also said he could not give the average salaries at those schools.

The immediate problem is replacing the four professors, Grether said.

So far, one new teacher has been hired and a UNL instructor, Stephen Kalish, now on leave on the same fellowship program as Snowden will be in, is coming back. The new instructor is Josephine Potuto, a senior at the Rutgers University Law School.

Snowden said the UNL Law College is "underfinanced to do a satisfactory job and well under that to do an excellent job."

Not only in salaries, but in areas such as office help, the UNL Law College has problems, some professors said. There are only four secretaries to serve the dean, assistant dean and faculty members.

The Law College handles its own registration. After secretaries have finished that and their other duties, professors have "the time of one-and-a-half secretaries to serve 18 faculty members," Mattis said.

"It makes it very difficult to do writing and research," he added.

Perlman said a school that offered to provide him a personal secretary would be inviting.

A student-faculty committee has been set up to study and make recommendations in those areas with the first draft due in a couple of weeks, according to Perlman, who is a member of the committee.

Harlan Abrahams, a senior in the Law College, said although students were presenting the problems of the Law College, it should be remembered that faculty and students have made it a "damn good school."

In the National Moot Court Competition, the UNL Law College has compiled a better record in winning court cases than any other college in the nation, Grether said. Its competition includes more than 100 law teams from such schools as Harvard and the University of Michigan.

In moot court competition, a team of law students write up a brief for a court case and argue it before a panel of judges.

Since 1953, when UNL entered competition, it has advanced to the national quarterfinals six times, the last in 1972. Of those times it has placed first once and second twice. It won honors in the best national oral argument, written argument and outstanding individual speaker.

Survey: alcohol bill prognosis poor

By Greg Wees

A bill that would permit the sale and consumption of liquor on campus, LB783, will be facing stiff opposition in the Unicameral, according to many lawmakers.

The measure is scheduled for first round consideration on general file Thursday.

In a spot check Monday and Tuesday of 20 of the 49 state senators, 11 opposed LB783, six favored the bill, and three remained uncommitted.

Two of those favoring passage were State Senators Steve Fowler and John Cavanaugh. Fowler and Cavanaugh are sponsors of the bill. State Sen. Terry Carpenter, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, State Senators Glenn

Goodrich of Omaha, Orval Keyes of Springfield and David Stahmer of Omaha also said they supported the bill.

State Sen. George Syas of Omaha said Monday he opposes the bill for one reason. "If they (students) are old enough to drink, they can go to a bar off campus," he said. Students do not have to drink in their living units, he added.

Three senators suggested the Legislature is not the best channel for consideration of the alcohol issue.

State Senators Calvin Carsten of Avoca, Irving Wiltse of Falls City and Fred Carstens of Beatrice said the issue is the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents. If the Regents had recommended the bill, the Legislature could have acted, they said.

The regents, rejected the alcohol proposal by a 7-1 vote.

Though students "have good arguments for the bill," State Sen. Leslie Stull of Alliance said he would vote against the bill. He said he represents one of the most conservative Nebraska districts and his constituents wanted him to reject the bill.

State Sen. John Murphy, who opposes LB783, said he thought the measure has little chance of passing.

Other state senators who said they oppose the bill are Wally Barnett of Lincoln, Ernie Chambers of Omaha, William Hasebroock of West Point, Ralph Kelly of Grand Island, Richard Marsh of Milligan and Blair Richendifer of Walthill.