

## 'Unclear resignation' slows ombudsman hunt

By Randy Gordon

The question of how clear a resignation must be has arisen in the delayed search for a new ombudsman at UNL.

The ombudsman's office is a liaison between students, faculty and administration. Complaints that cannot be resolved through other means are investigated by this office.

James Suter, UNL's first ombudsman, who resigned Aug. 1 to head the State Comprehensive Health Planning Bureau, said the UNL administration knew of his intentions to resign as early as July 1973.

"There was no misunderstanding. There was nothing unclear at all," Suter said. "I

told both Ned Hedges, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and Chancellor James Zumberge when I agreed to continue as ombudsman for the remainder of last year that I would be leaving in July, 1974."

His resignation was made official in a letter sent to the chancellor May 8, 1974, he said.

Suter said when he accepted the job as ombudsman at the start of the 1972 fall semester he told the chancellor's office it would be a temporary appointment.

He said he quit the position not because he was disillusioned, but to help maintain the independence of the ombudsman by not becoming a permanent fixture.

"I enjoyed it but it was emotionally demanding," Suter said. "You are always concerned with other people's problems and its difficult to remain uninvolved."

Ken Bader, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, said Suter's desire to quit was understood in July, 1973.

He said the chancellor's office needed more than an understanding before the resignation was official, though.

"We needed to have a written resignation before we could choose a successor," Bader said.

"Someone telling us they are quitting won't do. We can plan partially on that, but we can't recognize the resignation until we have the official statement. We can run into all sorts of difficulty if we do," he said.

Suter said he did not fill out a resignation statement before May because he was not sure until then that he would leave for the State Health Department.

"No one asked me for anything in writing," Suter said. "It was an oral agreement that I would be leaving the ombudsman position

whether I stayed at the university or left to work for the state.

"I would have been resigning from the entire university, not just from the role of ombudsman, if I had completed the administrative reassignment and leave of absence form," Suter said.

No one asked me for anything in writing," whether I stayed at the university or left to

He said he believes an ombudsman may never be selected if it is not done by the end of this semester.

The chairman of the second Search Committee for an ombudsman, Braskamp, said the committee is determined to find a new ombudsman quickly.

Braskamp said the first search committee was formed July 22 and had not received any qualified applicants by the Aug. 7 deadline. He said the committee decided to postpone the search until this fall when more qualified nominees would be on campus and could be contacted.

Dave Howlett, ASUN Second Vice President, said the search for a new ombudsman began April 16 when a Council on Student Life (CSL) ad hoc committee was formed to consider the value and contribution of the ombudsman's office to UNL.

Howlett said the ad hoc committee recommended to CSL on May 6 that the office be continued but that a quorum was not present to vote. He said the report was agreed to informally and sent to Chancellor Zumberge.

Both Vice Chancellors Bader and Hedges said the study by CSL was needed.

"We must have an evaluation of the importance of the office before we spend money on it," Bader said.

Bader said there was a delay in receiving nominations for persons from ASUN and the faculty Senate to serve on the ombudsman search committee.

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James Suter's resignation as UNL ombudsman is being questioned.

## Proposal lifts sex restrictions

By Lynn Silhasek

Male sorority pledges?  
Females suiting up for Cornhusker football games?

No, women won't be playing in Memorial Stadium on Saturdays this fall. Nor will there be coed living quarters along "fraternity row." But both sexes may be participating in activities this year at UNL that were previously restricted to one sex.

The possible changes come from a Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) proposal to implement Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. That provision, with certain exceptions, prohibits sex discrimination in education programs or activities which receive federal funds.

Areas that the regulation would affect include athletics, campus organizations, courses, financial aid and University employment. HEW officials will sponsor hearings throughout the country to determine whether to adopt the regulation.

With UNL Chancellor James Zumberge's approval in July of an expanded women's intercollegiate athletic program for the 1974-75 school year, UNL complies with a part of the regulation that requires institutions to equalize athletic opportunities by providing support and training in areas previously lacking both.

Program expansions are outlined in a report by the Chancellor's Commission on Women's Intercollegiate Athletics. The report, approved by Zumberge, provides the program with a \$80,000 budget that includes scholarships and

training in seven sports including volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, swimming and tennis.

The women's intercollegiate athletics program will now be within the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, temporarily headed by Athletic Director Robert Devaney, according to Zumberge.

Last year the program was in the Department of Physical Education for Women. The department's 1973-74 budget designated \$12,790 for women's athletics, according to figures obtained from the Legislature's Office of the Fiscal Analyst. Through contract with the men's athletic department, \$1,500 was received for women's intercollegiate athletics, according to the figures.

Expansion of women's athletic programs drew a mixed reaction from those attending a July HEW hearing in Omaha, according to two Lincolinites who attended.

Ron Bachman, Nebraska Wesleyan University football coach, said school officials who attended the hearing agreed women are getting the short end of the stick in athletics.

A developed athletics program with scholarships would require recruiting and bidding on athletes, he said, "and I don't think women want to get involved in this kind of thing."

Steve Fowler, state senator and former ASUN president, said some women involved in athletic programs also opposed the regulation at the hearing.

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