

UNL leadership conference

Changes in ASUN proposed

By Lynn Silhasek

ASUN—should it be a student government or a student lobby group?

Two ASUN Senate ad hoc committees will begin a study of possible changes in ASUN, according to David Howlett, ASUN second vice president. The study results from an ASUN-sponsored student leadership conference, held Oct. 16-19 at UNL, Howlett said.

The conference was conducted by ASUN and Student Leadership Services, a Milwaukee consulting firm. About 80 persons, representing UNL and six other schools, attended the conference.

ASUN Sen. Art Alexander and UNL law student Dennis Martin who both conducted conference sessions on government structure, agreed the ASUN goals need to be redefined.

Reduce ASUN size

According to Alexander, session participants agreed ASUN will have to be reduced in size if it is to be a policy-making board. "We would have to make ASUN the Council on Student Life (CSL)," Alexander said. CSL makes policy recommendations to UNL Chancellor James Zumberge that affect students in matters outside of the classroom.

One government model suggested in the sessions was a structure with a 10-15-member policy-making board, according to Alexander. Three committees—service, liaison and funding committees—would operate

under the board's jurisdiction, Alexander said.

Representation by living units

Session members also suggested possible changes in methods of student government representation, according to Martin. Representation by living units was suggested as a possible alternative to the present system of representation by colleges, Martin said.

The role of ASUN senator also may need revision, according to Alexander. He said the senate is ineffective because "a lot of us in there now are overextended." Future qualifications for the senate position might require a student to limit involvement in other activities, Alexander said.

Howlett said he would like to have the committees submit proposed revisions to ASUN's structure by the second week in December. Hearings would be held on campus during second semester to determine students' opinions of the changes, he said.

Wasted time

"We're (the committee members) going to waste two to three weeks doing things that could have been done this weekend," Alexander said. "But no senators showed up (at the conference) other than those who worked to set it up."

At a recent ASUN meeting, senators had amended a resolution which would have required them to attend various conference sessions. About six ASUN senators attended conference sessions, according to Howlett.



Educators object to volunteer doctor act

By Rex Seline

Health manpower legislation presently before Congress could hurt health profession education in Nebraska, according to representatives from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and College of Dentistry and from Creighton University's Health Sciences schools.

C. R. Boughn, executive assistant to the chancellor of the medical center, Richard Bradley of the dental college and Dr. Robert P. Heaney, vice president for Health Sciences at Creighton University, said they objected to parts of "Health Manpower Act of 1974."

Passage of the bill was stalled by the election recess. If it is passed, the bill would require that 25 per cent of each school's graduates volunteer to practice in underserved areas such as city slums and rural regions. It would also force

health science schools to increase their enrollments by 10 per cent.

Federal funds cut

Schools not meeting the requirements would not receive federal capitation (per student)

funds which presently average more than \$1,500 per student in addition to tuition, according to Heaney.

Bradley said if the bill passes, his school would be unable to participate in the program because it is filled "slightly over capacity."

Heaney said, while Creighton could probably handle the increase, it would be "stretching the limits of the clinical facilities" since, in combination with the medical center, the increase would be 25 students per class in Omaha.

According to Bradley, the dental school would apply for a waiver in such a case, but he added that the

school does not depend on federal funds. He said Oregon and West Virginia are the only other states in the nation with similarly independent dental schools.

Heaney said he knew of only one health school in the nation that has turned down federal capitation funds.

Not feasible

Boughn called the legislation not feasible because it would be impossible to guarantee 25 per cent of any class volunteering for the special service.

Heaney said he thought medical schools could do it because of the stiff competition for admittance. But he said he was not in favor of the program which would "hold the medical schools hostage for what its graduates did."

Heaney said the big problem in health care is that it is "fragmented, not systematized."

Low-income students aided by Special Services

By Gina Hills

Special Services, a federally funded branch of Minority Affairs at UNL, is not just for minority students, but also for low-income students, according to Joe R. Renteria, coordinator for Special Services.

Four years ago, UNL received a three-year, \$74,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) to provide for Special Services. The grant was renewed last year.

Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he does not expect the federal government to renew the grant again. Special Services should be state-supported, he added.

"For four years we have been applying to the university for money," Renteria said. He added that as long as the program is federally funded, he doesn't expect to get university funding.

Renteria also said that UNL administrators "listened to our requests, but there isn't too much action from them."

three minority counselors

Special Services has three minority counselors in addition to Renteria, the coordinator.

Martin Ramirez is the counselor for Chicano students, Gordon Kitto counsels American Indians and Annette Hudson is the counselor for black students.

"We want to make the transition from high school to college easier for minorities and low-income students," Renteria said. The counselors try to help these students with any problems, especially those relating to housing, academics and finances, he said.

Tutors are provided free of charge and a book loan service also is available to the students who need it, he said.

Few use services

Minority and low-income students who can't afford books may borrow them for use during the semester, he added. The books are obtained by an arrangement with the bookstores through Minority Affairs.

But not many low-income students take advantage of these services, Ramirez added.

"There is a stigma for any student to admit

he's low income," he said. Ramirez also said the counselors do not want to "single out" low-income and minority students.

In addition, Hudson said that "low-income whites may not be ready to affiliate with Chicanos and blacks."

The counselors said the university doesn't take time to understand the problems of minority students. This year there are about 80 Chicanos, 200 blacks and 33 American Indians at UNL, they said.

Cultural isolation

"The problem with the minorities trying to break into the university is the make up of Nebraska as a state in general. There is cultural isolation," Hudson said.

Bader agreed that there was a need for "appreciation for plural cultures at the University."

He also said he hopes to increase "sensitivities of the faculty" toward ethnic minority students. He said he is developing programs that are supportive to the classroom, which will make the faculty and students more aware of the different cultures in Nebraska.

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