

Committees study residence hall ideas

Richard Armstrong, director of housing at UNL, has organized six investigative committees under the housing office to study about 60 ideas concerning residence halls.

Each committee comprises about seven people, including a student, a representative of the housing administration and staff from the housing office.

Armstrong said each of the ideas must be evaluated against one or more of the following criteria: It must tend to increase occupancy, result in reduced operating costs or improve the use of space.

Following its study each committee will make a recommendation based on its own experience and understanding. The housing office will then study any recommended proposal.

Listed among the ideas for consideration are: require students to purchase and pay for maintenance on television sets; eliminate student linen service; install computer terminals in halls; offer 15-meal option; provide small libraries in each hall complex; continue liberalizing rules and regulations (alcohol and visitation); and convert excess space to apartments for married students.

Reports concerning ideas from several of the committees were turned in to the housing office January 24. If the ideas are approved for 1975-76, they could be in the student handbook, which is to be printed in mid-February.

The student handbooks will be distributed with the residence hall room and board contracts prior to spring break, Armstrong said.

The remainder of the reports will be turned into the housing office by March 1.

Graduate programs

Group checks quality

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of stories examining graduate studies at UNL.

By Gina Hills

More than a year ago, graduate students in Teacher's College formed an independent student organization called Graduate Student Association-Teacher's College (GSA-TC).

Since then, members of the organization have been evaluating the graduate program for its strengths and weaknesses.

GSA-TC President Cale Kennedy said one of his major concerns is the quality of teachers that come out of the college.

Salaries, efforts correlate

He said there is a correlation between graduate assistants' salaries and their teaching efforts.

Salaries are 27 per cent below what they were two years ago, and with a rate of inflation of at least 10 per cent, graduate assistants are underpaid, he said.

"The cost level of undergraduate education is cheap" because graduate assistants teach the majority of introductory courses, he said.

For example, about 70 per cent of the introductory courses in history and philosophy of education are taught by graduate assistants, according to Jim Vosper, GSA-TC member.

In addition, all the 261 and 362 educational psychology classes are taught by graduates, he said. Nearly 40 per cent of the secondary education courses are taught by graduate assistants, he added.

Improve quality

If graduate assistants received more money there would be more competition for assistantships and the quality of teaching would improve, Kennedy said.

Now the average salary for graduate assistants in Teacher's College is about \$3,430.

In addition, there is a \$6,200 range between the highest and lowest stipend.

From a questionnaire that Kennedy sent to 56 graduate assistants in Teacher's College, he said he found that 24 out of the 25 who responded said they didn't make enough money.

About 60 per cent claimed they would stay in graduate school longer if they were paid more, and thus would "extend the period of professional training."

Hurry through school

Kennedy also noted that many graduate students hurry through graduate school because they don't make enough money to support themselves while they're there.

If salaries were increased, and graduate students remained in school longer, the quality of the state's prospective teachers might improve, he said.

Last year, about 75 per cent of Teacher's College graduates who reported their jobs to the college indicated they were placed in Nebraska schools, according to Lee DeJonge, director of teacher placement.

If the University places its graduates in state schools, it should be especially concerned with quality, Kennedy said.

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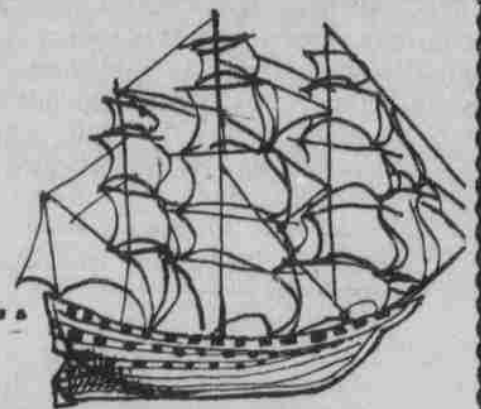
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