

Faculty Senate to discuss grading

UNL faculty members will enjoy more latitude in grading students if the Faculty Senate accepts the senate Grading Committee's proposals. These suggestions will be discussed by the senate when it meets Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. in Love Library.

Increased teacher power was not an overriding philosophy, Robert Sorensen, associate professor in agronomy, said.

"We were aiming at offering more options for students to get an education," he explained.

Sorensen, a member of the committee, foresees the proposed withdrawal policy as one vital issue. The committee recommends that the grade of W (withdrawal) be used more often at the discretion of the individual instructor.

Grades of incomplete are given improperly on a wide scale, Sorensen said. Rather than enforce the use of incompletes, the committee offers students and teachers another option.

In the proposal, if students wish to drop a class late in the semester, all they

would require is permission from the instructor.

"If a student obtained a W, he would forfeit his tuition for the course and the W would become a permanent part of his transcript," the committee report slated.

Another committee member, Robert Raymond, chairman of the Accounting Department, continued.

"I hope the W grade will help instructors in a tough spot," he said. If the instructor doesn't want to flunk a student who has not earned an incomplete grade, Raymond explained, he could use withdrawal-W.

The Senate Grading Committee report was written from the results of questionnaires sent to the entire faculty.

Another proposal the committee considers important is the bankrupt semester plan, he said. This would allow a student to erase one or two entire semesters of class work from degree consideration or grade point average.

"Many student don't realize," Raymond cautioned, "that these semesters would remain on their record and transcript."

When graduate schools and employers receive these student transcripts they may recompute their own grade point average, he warned, and there is nothing UNL can do.

The same holds true when a student retakes a single course, Raymond added. Although the grade is not figured in computation of grade point average, it remains on the student's transcript.

Jim Macomber, a ASUN senator who worked on the bankruptcy proposal, said the main advantage to the plan would be ease for the student.

Now if students want to retake a number of courses, they must file forms for each class and talk to every individual instructor.

"This wraps it all into one neat package," Macomber explained, "because the student only needs to apply through one person—the registrar."

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