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## New representation for Faculty Senate

When the restructured UNL Faculty Senate convenes in January 1976, it will "hopefully be a more responsive body," according to Senate President Richard Gilbert.

A plan to restructure the senate was passed by a mail ballot conducted in December. The vote was 381 to 104 in favor of the plan, which calls for a representative body made up of senators from 25-member districts.

Gilbert said the faculty will be split into districts of about 25 members, within colleges. In larger colleges, individual departments will be represented, he said, but all colleges, no matter what their size, will be represented by at least one senator.

The number 25 "is not hard and fast" for determining the number of representatives, Gilbert said. In some instances, a department with 17 faculty members might be represented.

### Faculty committee

The plan was devised by a faculty committee headed by law professor Wallace Rudolph. The committee held public hearings last spring and the plan was revised by the senate in October.

The senate has tried to restructure itself several times before, Gilbert said, but none of the attempts have succeeded.

"The opinion of the faculty is that we need a smaller, more responsive body to represent us," Gilbert said. Part of the reason that the plan was passed this time and not in preceding attempts was that it was voted on by mail ballot, he said.

"In the past they (previous plans) were voted on at senate meetings," Gilbert said. The mail ballot, sent to each faculty member's home, might have meant a different constituency, he said.

Gilbert cited one plan several years ago which did not pass because it was interpreted by many members as not representative enough.

### 'Town hall' meetings

Under the present senate structure, every faculty member is a senator.

"It's sort of a town hall type meeting," Gilbert said. "Since very few people attend, it is difficult to say that a decision is the opinion of the faculty."

If 50 faculty members attend (the minimum for a quorum) and only 26 vote in an election, they are in effect saying they represent the view of 1,500 faculty members.

The new senate would consist of between 40 and 60 members, Gilbert said, depending on the details of the districts.

"We hope it will be a body than can respond quickly and energetically, and work on a regular basis," he said.

President-elect Franklin Eldridge, who has been assigned to coordinate the district organization, said the new senate will not be in operation until January because of the time needed for such a transition.

Senators will be elected this fall.

## Meal discount plan tabled for this year

The 15-meal plan proposed by the UNL housing office will not be offered in any UNL residence hall next year, Richard Armstrong, director of housing said Monday.

The option, offered to residence hall students on a referendum, would give a \$50 discount to students eating their weekday meals in the dining rooms, and eating their weekend meals elsewhere. The cost of the 15-meal plan for a double room contract would be \$1,140.

Of students returning to the residence halls, 22 per cent voted in favor of the option. Armstrong said the response was not adequate to justify offering the option to all city campus residence halls, but, he said, there was sufficient interest to consider offering the plan to a smaller part of the campus.

### Larger discount

Selleck Quadrangle and Cather-Pound-Neihardt were chosen as residence halls where the option could be offered. Because it would be offered to a smaller group, a larger \$70 discount could be given. Selleck residents would vote on the proposal because they would eat weekend meals at Cather-Pound-Neihardt.

Explaining factors to be considered in their choice, Armstrong said the 1975-76 academic year includes 29 weekends, meaning 145 meals are excluded under the 15 meal option.

If the 15-meal option was instituted in Selleck, residents with the 20-meal option would have to eat their weekend meals at the Cather-Pound-Neihardt Dining room or any other residence hall food service. Both options would also be offered in Cather-Pound-Neihardt.

### 97 against

Of 127 students planning to return to Selleck next year, 97 voted against the proposal and 30 voted in favor.

At Burr-Fedde, of the 120 students planning to return, 93 opposed the proposal and 27 favored it.

Armstrong said that if the proposal was implemented at Burr-Fedde, there would not be a 20-meal option, but the same \$70 discount would be granted.

Because of the impact of offering only one option on East Campus, he said, 80 per cent support from the students would be needed.

### Costs considered

In estimating the amount of discount the housing office could offer for the 15-meal plan, he said they considered dining room operating expenses, food costs, and the smaller income they would receive offering services to fewer students. The housing office also pays a percentage of its income to the accounting department for its work; the smaller the amount of money being exchanged, the smaller the handling charge.

"I would like to offer more meal options and be more flexible, but the students' interests are more important," Armstrong said. He said he foresees no major changes in the meal plans for the next year, or the next few years.