



Kay Felton, part-time UNL reading skills instructor.

Proposed reading skill course given to curriculum committee

By Paula Damke

A proposed reading and study skills course has been submitted to the NU Curriculum Committee for approval.

Kay Felton, part-time UNL reading skills instructor, said the course was turned down by the University Curriculum Committee in June 1974.

Felton now teaches a no-credit reading and study skills course to 120 students through the Extension Division.

She said the proposed course, Educational Psychology 101, Reading Acceleration, would be a freshman-level course for two hours credit, and could be taken pass/fail.

1973 approval

In 1973 the proposed course was approved by the curriculum committees of the Educational Psychology Department and Teacher's College.

At that time, she said, C.B. Childs, former director of the Extension Division, authorized funds to purchase the necessary equipment and Ray Coffey, assistant business manager of business and finance, said space would be available.

Felton said she has a room for the class, but lacks funds and the course now is not offered for credit hours.

"There is a strong tendency to label college reading courses as remedial, while it is true that students with weak academic records will be guided to them, the course content and techniques will actually be new and useful to the students," she said.

Felton cited Francis P. Robinson's book, *Study Skills for Superior Students*, in which studies show the average and superior college student has insufficient reading and study skills, and that superior students excel mostly because of intellectual ability.

Need study skills

She said all college students need to learn research-designed study skills.

Reading is not a skill in which development is

complete at any time and formal education should stress continuous development of reading skills, Felton said.

Most students, she said, continue to read with a low degree of effectiveness and a high degree of frustration.

Maturity in reading can be defined in a number of ways, but most definitions include the reader's ability to grasp literal meaning, recognize implied meanings, reach conclusions not stated and evaluate and criticize the quality of writing, Felton said.

She said the Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education (NETCHE) last year hired a reading specialist, Mindy Brooks, to help the nine NETCHE colleges develop a reading and skills program. The nine colleges, including Chadron State, Doane College, Peru State and Wayne State, have received grants through NETCHE to set up programs.

NETCHE funds

UNL contributes a major portion of the NETCHE funds, she said.

Felton also said Iowa State, Oklahoma State and UNO are universities which give credit hours for reading and study skill courses.

One of the major benefits which students have said they gain from Felton's reading class is learning to use their time wisely, she said.

Felton said the class is not a speed reading class. A speed of 1,000 to 2,000 words per minute may be appropriate when the reader is seeking a general impression of the material, while a speed of no more than 100 to 250 words per minute may be needed to master a complex subject, she said.

The class is now taught for two hours each week, with two additional hours of laboratory work over a seven-week session.

When credit is offered, the class will be extended to an entire semester, she said.

Felton said there will be no additional cost to the Teacher's College because the necessary equipment will be provided by the Extension Division.

Hall looks for Pound look-alike

Any students thinking they resemble Louise Pound can find out by entering the Louise Pound look-alike contest. The contest is one activity planned for Pound Hall Week and is scheduled for Tuesday night.

Pound Hall Week will run Tuesday through Saturday. According to Ellen Coker, president of Julius, the Pound Hall government, the week will be a series of events sponsored by the residents of

Pound Hall to create enthusiasm about things happening in the residence hall.

Admission to Pound week events is free.

Tuesday, housing officials will eat dinner with Cather and Pound Hall residents, Mrs. J. James Exon also will attend.

The Louise Pound look-alike contest will be held at 9 p.m. After the contest, Rev. Duane Hutchinson will speak about Louise Pound.

A speaker from the Coalition Against Rape will be featured on Wednesday.

Thursday, a talent show and scavenger hunt are planned.

Free movies will be shown Friday with "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" being featured.

Saturday, a contest will be held to paint the Pound Hall stairway. A surprise activity which will include the entire residence hall is scheduled to end out the week.

HEW to investigate sex discrimination charges

By Chuck Beck

Two federal officials will travel to Nebraska from Kansas City, Mo., next week to investigate charges of sex discrimination on two NU campuses.

J.L. Thomas, branch chief in the Kansas City office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), said the investigators will interview persons involved in a report on sex discrimination at UNL and UNO.

The report, made by the Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Concerns, cites various departments at both campuses for irregularities in hiring and paying women.

About 150 women faculty members and employees signed the committee report said Larry Braskamp, assistant to the chancellor. The report was written last summer and was received by the UNL administration in October, he said.

Thomas said the investigative process continues after the HEW officials leave Nebraska. The case may be reviewed by department officials in Washington D.C., as well as at the Kansas City office. A final decision may not be made for two months, he added.

Thomas would not discuss what questions the interviewers would be asking administrators, department heads and the women employees.

"We want a true picture of what actually happens," Thomas said. "We don't want anyone to prepare answers before the interviewers get there."

NU faces possible loss of federal funds if the sex discrimination charges prove valid, Adam C. Breckenridge, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs, said.

Thomas said, however, that often a settlement is worked out between the conflicting parties. He said his department could work with the university staff and the women dissidents to work out a settlement if necessary.

"The idea for the investigation is to make the individual get the thing he wants," Thomas said. "We want to restore the individual to the position he would normally have had before the discriminatory act was committed."

The investigation of UNL and UNO began last summer after the ad hoc committee filed the report with his office, Thomas said.

One UNL department cited for discriminatory hiring practices was the English Department, Braskamp said. Nine of the 55 full-time English Department faculty members are women and of 17 appointments made between 1968 and 1974, one was a woman, according to the report.

Other UNL departments accused of inequitable hiring practices were chemistry, modern language, art, foreign languages and the College of Law.

Another area of discrimination detailed in the report was inequitable salaries between men and women employees. The report said there is a difference of more than \$1,000 in annual salary between men and women clerical workers at the University.

However, members of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at UNL reviewed last year's Faculty Senate report on salaries, Commission Chairperson Lois Schwab said. The 10-member commission of administrators, college deans, faculty members and UNL employees could find no significant salary differences between men and women employees, Schwab said.

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