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Free ticket validity opinions debated

By Lynn Roberts

Winning Cornhusker football teams have created a demand for football tickets, thus sparking a recent controversy over distribution of complimentary tickets, said Bob Devaney, UN-L athletic director.

A resolution introduced by state Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly prompted a July 14 legislative hearing to examine methods of free football ticket distribution.

"When the athletic department asked for additional funds this year, I proposed the resolution to look into the possibility of charging for some of the free tickets," Warner said.

"I think it's appropriate to reserve seats, but I think a charge could be made," he said, adding that he has always accepted free tickets given to him as a state senator.

Committee established

As a result of Warner's resolution, a committee headed by Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha was established to review the Board of Regents' policy on ticket distribution.

Cavanaugh said a report of findings gathered at the hearing will be given to the Legislature, and no further hearings have been scheduled.

"I'm not saying they shouldn't give any tickets away, but I would recommend that they adopt some sort of policy," Cavanaugh said.

"As it stands now, nothing is written down and I think there is a need for a written policy," he added.

No written guidelines

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said that, although there are no written guidelines, there are policies which have "evolved through the years" that are followed.

He added that distribution of free tickets is not just at the discretion of the athletic department, but involves decisions made through the public relations department and the chancellors office.

A report is being compiled on the subject by a committee of Regents, although Schwartzkopf said the legislative hearing is not what prompted it.

"It is something that hasn't been looked at for a long time and we decided it was time to take a look to see if things are being done right," Schwartzkopf said.

Flexibility needed

"I think there probably should be some written guidelines, although I think there needs to be flexibility," he said. "I can't see having guidelines which can't be changed if circumstances dictate it."

Devaney said 204 tickets are given to members of the nonworking press, 98 to legislators and about 2,000 more to \$1,000 donors and others to whom the university wants to say "thank you."

It is difficult for someone to obtain a season ticket, Devaney said. Contributors are allowed first choice if tickets become available, and he said there is a waiting list of people wanting to contribute.

Although tickets are hard to obtain, Devaney maintains that some free ones are necessary.

This includes many that go to high school coaches who pay \$1 for their tickets he said.

Support program

"These are people who keep our program going and they're worth more to the program than \$7.25 (the cost for a general admission ticket)," Devaney said.

He added that the price of the ticket is split with the Big 8 and that not much money would be gained by charging for the tickets.

"We don't expect special favors from the press or Legislature because we give them tickets," Devaney said. "We are just doing it the way it has always been done."

"Some people think that every time someone goes to the bathroom at the university they need to go to the Regents for approval," Devaney said.

"It isn't necessary to check with the Regents for everything," he said. "Authority has been delegated to us by the Regents and we feel we are responsible enough to carry things out."



How much longer will some Husker fans receive free tickets? See story at left. Photo courtesy of the Daily Nebraskan.

Workshop presents law for earlier school study

By Vince Boucher

Dusty old books and crusty old college professors are often thought of when the study of law is mentioned.

How often is law considered to be a subject for study by high school students?

What about elementary school students?

Teaching law in the schools is a growing national movement according to Alan H. Frank, NU professor of law.

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Frank, along with Hugh Troshynski is teaching a two-week summer workshop "Teaching Law in Elementary and Secondary Schools" at UN-L. Troshynski is a teacher at Lincoln East high school, who has taught law-related courses there.

First at UN-L

The workshop, which will end Friday, is the first of its kind at UN-L. It grew out of a one-week criminal justice institute started three years ago by the Lincoln Public Schools.

Frank said the institute was started with help from the Police Officer Resource program, where officers were given funds and assigned to Lincoln schools.

The university workshop

has added more instruction in curriculum and teaching methods for law along with activities to show working of the legal system, Frank said.

The criminal justice system is being used as an example of law in practice but it can be applied "across the board," he said.

Step by step

"What we're trying to do is to take everyone step by step through the criminal justice system, showing the functions of the police, the courts and corrections," he said.

Class activities include a panel of defense and prosecuting attorneys discussing their work, a panel of police officers talking about their work in the schools, a day of watching trials in courtrooms of the County-City building followed by a panel of judges answering questions of the class, a tour of the state penitentiary and a panel on legal rights in the schools.

Simulations also are a part of the workshop activities. One game, invented by Frank, involves students in plea-bargaining (bargaining for lesser charges in exchange for a guilty plea to avoid a trial). Students play the roles of the accused, their attorneys and of prosecuting attorneys.

Better than courts

"We have the system rigged so that if they work out a deal they will come out better than through the courts, which is a realistic attitude right now," Frank said.

Another game called Police Control illustrates the variety of police work and the necessity for police to react without always knowing all the facts as students play that role in hypothetical situations.

Students will also complete a mock trial and moot court (arguing an appellate court decision) in the workshop as

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Regents to close doors

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has notified the public that a portion of its next meeting will be closed.

This announcement followed criticism of the board for an unannounced closed meeting with Athletic Director Bob Devaney before the formal session last month.

In a notice prepared by William F. Swanson, board secretary, the closed meeting was set for 7 a.m. July 26 at Regents Hall in Lincoln.

"It is anticipated that the first order of business will be to hold a closed session for the purpose stated in Section 31 of the Legislative bill 325," the notice said.

The reference is to the open meetings law

enacted this year, which allows closed meetings of public bodies "if it is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual."

Dr. Robert Prokop of Wilbur, vice-chairman of the board, said he expects personnel items to be discussed along with several easements on university property at the closed session.

The law permits closed strategy sessions on real estate matters. Regents maintain that "sensitive" personnel items are also exempt from public discussion.

Regents will resume their public session at 9 a.m.