

UNMC Nursing College Bldg. encounters setback

Construction of the University of Nebraska College of Nursing bldg. at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) which began during the summer of 1974 will encounter a three month setback, according to UNMC Chancellor Robert Sparks.

Completion of the building at 42nd and Dewey Streets on the medical center campus, once expected in October, is now set for January, Sparks said.

"It's a matter of keeping the construction on schedule," he said. "I must stress that they are on a very tight schedule and with a construction strike and delivery delays, they have encountered some setbacks."

The \$3.5 million building is 70 per cent financed by a federal grant with the remainder coming from a state appropriation and private gifts.

There are three key reasons for the new College of Nursing Bldg, Sparks said.

"The main objective is to permit expansion of enrollment," he said. "This fall 438 students enrolled in nursing college. By 1980, we expect an enrollment of 726 students."

Another reason, according to Sparks, is expansion of a career ladder program so that students can enter the College of Nursing after high school and graduate with a Masters of Science in Nursing within

six years. Sparks said he also hopes the building will provide clinical and specialized educational units for nursing students.

"A host of new learning programs will be available in the new building," he said, including clinical laboratories reproducing hospital settings, behavioral science laboratories and self-instruction learning centers.

While the UNMC College of Nursing

bldg. will allow increased enrollment and improved laboratories, the College of Nursing at UNL also "will be tight for space within another year or so," according to Lois Merrill, associate dean of both the UNMC and UNL College of Nursing.

"As far as I know, no plans are being made for a new College of Nursing Bldg. at UNL," she said. "Right now we use classrooms all over the campus, anywhere they are available."

Academic bankruptcy

Few students use option

The success of a program cannot always be measured by the number of its participants—and UNL's academic bankruptcy option seems to be such a program.

Since the start of academic bankruptcy last February, less than 50 students have taken advantage of this option to remove a semester of work from degree consideration, Ted Pfeifer, director of Registration and Records at UNL, said.

He said the program has worked well for those students it is supposed to help.

"Academic bankruptcy was intended to serve only a few dozen students," Stephen Hilliard, who was chairman of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee when the bankrupt policy was adopted, said.

Academic bankruptcy allows a student to remove up to two complete semesters of work from degree consideration.

This option is designed mainly for students enrolling in the university a second time, Pfeifer said.

The bankruptcy option also helps those students who "perhaps weren't as serious about their academic careers as they should have been," he said, or for the student who had to leave school because of illness or a family crisis and thereby received a semester of F's.

Pfeifer explained why academic bankruptcy is not the "easiest way out" for most students with low grade point averages.

"It is better for most students to take advantage of the university procedure for removal of D or F grades by retaking the course," he said.

"This way, a student can salvage an A which he might have earned during an otherwise poor semester," he said.

Pfeifer said he expects no changes in the academic bankruptcy program since "it is working for those students it was intended

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