

Bennett: student needs determine alcohol policy

Nebraska Union Director Allen Bennett said "it is up to the students" whether or not the Nebraska Union will sell alcohol, even if the Legislature approves its sale on university property.

But he said it might be two to three years after approval before renovations could be completed.

"It is inappropriate for the Union to take the leadership" in lobbying for campus sale of liquor, Bennett said. "We will respond to the current definitive needs of the clientele. If the campus community doesn't want it, we won't respond."

Bennett said that since the new East Campus Union is "reasonably well into completion," he and his staff are considering renovations for the City Campus Union.

Bennett listed "three primary targets of concern" in the Union including parking space near the Union, room for the University Bookstore and obtaining a liquor license for retail sale.

The University Bookstore would like to centralize its three rooms into one large one, he said, and if the bookstore would leave the Union basement, three rooms

would be vacant. Bennett said that the bookstore has given no indication yet of wanting to leave the Union.

Bennett said he wants to renovate Union dining rooms, especially the North and South Cribs. He said he has from \$750,000 to \$1 million in reserve funds for renovations. Before spending it, Bennett said he wants to be sure it would be worthwhile to install a pub to dispense beer, wine and possibly mixed drinks in the dining rooms.

Bennett said the Union staff will be "very interested" in the outcome of an ASUN poll surveying student opinion of liquor on campus. However, he said the Union Advisory Board probably would follow up with a poll of its own.

"We think we are just as well prepared to teach students to live around alcohol as a bar on the street," he said.

If the sale of liquor on campus is legalized on campus and the campus community accepted it, Bennett said, the Union should sell it and attract the business that otherwise would go to bars downtown.

Student fees allocation

Collective decision urged

By Ann Owens

Students, faculty members and administrators should decide collectively how to handle student fees, according to Ronald Gierhan, assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs.

Gierhan said several part-time married and graduate students complained last spring and this fall about student fees, saying they couldn't benefit from them because of outside responsibilities.

Fee-users include all student organizations receiving money from the Fees Allocation Board (FAB).

Gierhan said some students proposed paying student fees per credit hour, similar to tuition payments and this summer a committee studied the possibility.

Pre-credit hour

"There are some problems with a per-credit hour basis," he said. "To begin with, we would have a hard time selling it to many students."

"Would a student taking 18 credit hours benefit from free-user agencies more than a student taking three credit hours?"

Gierhan said each student fee includes \$14.50, required by a 1966 NU Board of Regents bond issue.

The money goes toward the retirement

of a bond on residence halls, the Nebraska Union and the University Health Center.

Like taxes

Gierhan compared student fees with taxes, saying that in a large society everyone pays taxes whether they benefit from them directly or not.

"As tax payers we realize taxes are necessary for the majority's good," he said. "But one might pay for street improvement without ever seeing the street in front of his house improved."

"If the method of paying student fees were changed, we would still have to guarantee bond holders a certain revenue," Gierhan said.

He said students receive the same quality of service from the University Health Center regardless of how many credit hours they take.

"Is it fair to ask 16 credit hour students to pay more than three credit hour students for the same services?" Gierhan asked.

The study committee decided they could not defend the credit hour proposal and it was rejected, Gierhan said, but, he added, "If someone can come up with a better system than is used now we would like it brought forward."

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