

Voc ag education cited as open field

By Dick Hovorka

In the market for a job after graduation? There is a nationwide shortage of vocational agriculture teachers.

Roy Dillon, chairman of the Agriculture Education Dept. said there were 39 openings for high school agriculture teachers in Nebraska last year. Five of those were filled by people outside Nebraska, and three were never filled.

High school enrollment in vocational ag increased from about 5,700 in 1970 to more than 8,700 last year. During the same period, teachers increased from 127 to 153.

Ratio higher

The student-teacher ratio increased from 45:1 to 57:1 in the same time span.

More girls are enrolling in agriculture-related courses in high school. Dillon at-

tributed the increase to the horticulture and small animal care classes now available.

About half of the graduating vocational ag majors do not teach, which follows the national trend, Dillon said. Instead, graduates returned to farms, helped with family business, entered ag business, graduate school or the military.

"Some simply don't like it after they student teach," he said.

Enrollment up

Ag College enrollment has increased since a dropoff that followed the end of the draft. There are 116 vocational ag majors, an increase of 26 over last year's total. Five are women; two of them are freshmen, two are sophomores and one is a junior.

Dillon said about 85 per cent of the

majors have a farm background, but the number is decreasing.

"It doesn't take a farm boy to be an agriculture instructor," he said.

Dillon pointed out the president of Alpha Tau Alpha, honorary agriculture fraternity, is from Omaha South High School.

Seven schools in Omaha, two in Lincoln and the vocational center now have vocational ag courses.

Dillon said students considering vocational ag must "like kids and people. Molding young minds can be very rewarding." Biological and social sciences are stressed, he said.

\$10,000 salary

He said starting pay by May will be about \$10,000 for 12-month employment.

"I'd like to see about 200 vocational ag majors," Dillon said.

Two scholarships are established for vocational ag majors. The first is the Nebraska District No. 16 Felco Land of the Lakes scholarship, a \$2,200 award for an incoming freshman. The state vocational ag teachers give three \$75 scholarships to juniors and seniors each year.

A "continuous recruitment program" is operated by the six-man department, Dillon said. Instructors travel to schools and talk with teachers and students.

Six of the seven Nebraska ag technical schools were visited in the last seven months to encourage students to transfer to the university after their two years at a technical school, Dillon said. This year there were about 90 transfers.

Arson may have caused Abel fire

Fire early Thursday morning which caused \$200 damage to fourth-floor Abel Hall has been attributed to arson, according to Campus Police Chief Gail Gade.

"We are still checking it out, and asking students on the floor about the incident," Gade said.

The 1 a.m. fire destroyed a bulletin board in the hall and scorched carpet and walls, he said.

Floor residents extinguished the fire before more damage could be done, but the Lincoln Fire Dept. was dispatched to prevent further flames, Gade said.

At YR meeting

Regent: CAC construction doubtful

By Theresa Forsman

The Campus Assistance Center (CAC) probably will not be built during the Christmas vacation, NU Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln told a group of 20 at a meeting of the University of Nebraska Young Republicans Thursday.

Schwartzkopf responded to questions about the assistance center from ASUN Sen. Frank Thompson.

Thompson has criticized Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett for what he called Bennett's unwillingness to consider student opinion about the center.

ASUN is circulating a petition to block construction of the center until more student response to the plan is received.

The center is scheduled for construction during the winter.

Schwartzkopf offered to arrange a meeting of administrators involved with the project and any interested students.

He urged students to bring their opposition or support for the CAC to the regent's next open meeting.

Schwartzkopf said students should be able to talk directly to anyone in the ad-

ministration. He said he is in favor of dissolving the ombudsman position on the UNL campus, he said, because students don't need a third party to intervene with the administration for them.

Thompson suggested the proposed assistance center is an attempt to bury the Help-Line budget. The Help Line's \$12,000 budget will finance the operating cost of the assistance center.

Thompson said he met with Bennett Thursday afternoon to discuss what he called inadequate access to the Nebraska Union by handicapped students.

He said he was concerned that handicapped students who pay student fees for the use of the union do not have access to the building, but was told there are not enough funds to renovate the union entrances right now.

"Did you tell him where he could get \$14,000 real quick," Schwartzkopf asked, referring to the proposed construction cost of the campus assistance center.

He criticized the priorities of the university, saying money being spent to construct fire doors and enclosed stairways is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Schwartzkopf added he would rather see money spent to help the handicapped than to comply with the state fire marshal's safety requirements.

In other discussion, Schwartzkopf criticized the dual role of ASUN president and student regent.

He said ASUN should be a full-time job.

"I would like to see Jim Say (UNL's student regent) so busy with ASUN he didn't have time for regent meetings."

He does endorse the idea of a student regent, Schwartzkopf said, and relies on them for information about student concerns.

Schwartzkopf added he was disappointed Say had not informed the regents of the plans to build the campus assistance center.

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