

Introduction of ASUN's alcohol bill depending upon unidentified Senator

By Liz Crumley

An ASUN Senate bill legalizing alcohol in specific campus areas probably has a 60 per cent chance of being introduced during the current session of the Nebraska Legislature, said John Welch, chairman of the ASUN Government Liaison Committee.

The bill, which includes a provision allowing the university to seek a liquor license, currently has possible support for introduction from only one state member, Welch said. However, the senator, whom Welch refused to identify, wanted to be sure the effort was not "doomed from the start" before promising support for introduction, Welch said.

"Right now, it looks kind of negative," Welch said.

Regents' action

The first step, Welch said, is the NU Board of Regents action on a Differentiated Housing Task Force proposal, which probably will include a recommendation that liquor be allowed in certain campus areas.

The task force, originated by the Council on Student Life's Housing Policy Committee (HPC) last October, studied and made recommendations on housing policy.

Welch said he expects the regents to defeat the proposal as they have similar proposals. The proposal probably will be on the board's February agenda.

Originally, the ASUN Senate wanted to introduce its bill during the first 10 days of the legislative session, Welch said. This would allow a state senator to introduce it rather than a committee, which after 10 days must introduce any bill for the general session.

However, the senate changed strategy. Welch said he was told the bill would lose too many votes in the Legislature if regents did not act first on the task force's alcohol proposal, he said.

Proper channels

Welch said he did not think a regents' defeat of the

alcohol proposal would hurt, and said he thinks state senators believe the ASUN proposal should travel "proper (regent) channels" before visiting the Legislature.

Welch emphasized that the HPC task force's proposal must be acted on by CSL, Ken Bader, vice-chancellor for student affairs, and Interim Chancellor Adam Breckenridge before reaching the regents.

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Though Welch said he did not foresee any problems concerning the expected alcohol proposal, he said Breckenridge has promised it no vocal support.

The state senator approached for support of the senate bill also wants to be sure of an effective student lobbying effort and support from proper university officials before he agrees to introduce the bill into session, Welch said.

However, he said, the senate lacks sufficient manpower for an effective lobbying effort. He said students interested in helping should contact him.

Gubernatorial uncertainty

Another problem, Welch said, was uncertainty of gubernatorial action if the bill were passed by the Legislature. Welch said he spoke to one of Gov. J. James Exon's aides but received no definite indication of what would happen.

However, Welch said, he was told that Exon thought campus alcohol legalization was within the regents jurisdiction. The bill probably would be worded so that the legalization would not need regent consent, Welch said.

Welch said he now expects 11 votes from senators in the 1976 Legislature who voted for a similar bill introduced in the 1974 session.

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