

Union Board questions exclusion

By Anita Stork

A letter asserting ASUN's claim as the sole organization responsible for interviewing Union Board applicants was introduced at Wednesday's Union Board Advisory meeting.

Handed out by ASUN senators present at the meeting, the letter, addressed to the Union Board and written by Karen Dress, a senior French major from Omaha, stated: "ASUN must make the appointments official and subsequently take ultimate responsibility for the actions of the appointees. The committee voted unanimously to conduct interviews on a personal, confidential and closed manner."

The letter was in response to two letters from Union Board President Garey Heider, a senior pre-law major from North Platte, to ASUN.

Heider's first letter expressed Union Board's desire to assist the appointments committee in interviewing applicants for the four seats open on the board.

Dress said she did not receive a copy of Heider's letter until Jan. 16, the day before interviews were scheduled.

It was too late to contact ASUN members concerning the letter before the interviews, Dress said.

"On Saturday Jan. 17, the 16-member appointments committee reviewed the letter and voted unanimously to close the interviews to the Union Board," Dress said.

Union Board member Dean Kirby, a political science major from Lincoln, tried to attend the meeting but was not allowed admittance, Heider said.

Heider sent another letter to ASUN asking why Board members were not allowed to participate in the selection of appointees.

"The whole situation doesn't make sense," Heider said. "People on the board would be better equipped to ask questions of prospective board members."

Heider said the board is "perfectly willing to work with ASUN" in appointing members. He added that all current board members are ASUN appointees.

The board bylaws state: "Union Board shall seek to participate in interviews," according to Heider.

Dress said ASUN, not Union Board, is given the responsibility of interviews.

"The NU Board of Regents have given us the power of appointment," Dress said. "We've never had trouble be-

fore when conducting interviews."

ASUN President Jim Say, a senior political science major from Norfolk, earlier said the appointments committee wanted "personal privacy during interviews."

"We didn't want strangers having anything to do with the appointments by sitting in on the interviews," Say said.

Kirby said he was excluded from the interviews "not only as a member of Union Board but as a member of the public."

Heider said appointees might "feel they are under the thumb of ASUN and not responsible to the constituency."

"Without members of the board present we have no way of knowing that interviews were conducted properly," Heider said.

Mark Bowen, a sophomore in Teachers College, last

week was appointed to a two-year term on the board and history graduate student Marie Engelke of Staten Island, N.Y. was named to a one-year term, effective when the other two vacancies are filled.

Dress earlier said Union Board's bylaws may state that board members should seek to sit in on interviews, but it is "ASUN's prerogative to say no you can't."

"ASUN has to take full responsibility for the conduct of the appointees," Dress said. "We have to keep everything that goes on during interviews confidential. Outsiders would be free to reveal things."

The Union Board is considering bringing the matter before the regents, Heider said earlier.

"We might ask the regents to revoke ASUN's control of student organizations," he said, adding, "ASUN is severely limiting student input."

ASUN backs Gateway Bank ouster

By George Miller

A petition drive will be started in the next few days among students in an attempt to force the Union Board to give Gateway Bank 90 days notice that it will lose its lease in the Nebraska Union.

This action was announced at the ASUN Senate meeting Wednesday night by Jim Winkler, a senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences and one of eight new senators sworn in during the meeting.

Winkler said he will attempt to get as many signatures as possible on his petition before the Union Board meets next Wednesday night to consider terminating Gateway's lease.

He said he will try to contact the presidents of campus organizations to get the petitions circulated. He said he would also attempt to get a booth in the Union where students could sign petitions.

Winkler announced his intention to launch the drive as the Senate debated a resolution by Sen. Dale Sobotka that would "strongly urge UNL to terminate its lease agreement with Gateway Bank and seek an alternate banking agency" to fill the space in the Union.

Sen. Scott Cook attempted to table the resolution until

the Union Board meets next week. He said Senate sentiment toward the bank could be given at that time. The motion failed.

Sen. Frank Thompson said the space could be filled by some campus organization and the lease should be terminated even if no other bank would move into the space.

Sen. John Welch, another new senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences, suggested allowing the bank to stay on the assumption that if many people withdraw their checking accounts, the bank would lose money and still have to pay rent to the Union. His amendment failed.

The Senate passed Sobotka's resolution by a vote of 22 in favor, none opposing and three abstaining.

The Senate took the action after Gateway Bank last week announced that it would initiate monthly maintenance fees for checking accounts with balances of \$200 or less.

The Senate also passed a resolution forming a committee of five Senators to review the Differentiated Housing Task Force report of the Housing Policy Committee of Council on Student Life (CSL) and to make recommendations to the Senate on the report, the minority report and CSL's recommendations.

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