

Sponsor request may dwindle teaching honors

Fewer Distinguished Teaching Awards may be offered at UNL this year because of a sponsor's request to consider faculty members from all three NU campuses, said Gene Harding, director of the Teaching and Learning Center and chairman of the UNL Teaching Council.

Teaching Council is a student-faculty member committee responsible for encouragement of teaching innovations at UNL. The council, with Adam Breckenridge, interim chancellor and vice-chancellor for academic affairs, makes final nominations for recipients of Distinguished Teaching Awards, Harding said.

Three of the five-to-six awards, originated in 1954 to recognize excellence in teaching, are sponsored by the Amoco Foundation. The foundation requested that instructors from all three campuses be considered for the award. Until this year, their grant has financed recognition only at UNL.

The awards, which include a medallion and \$1,000, are presented at the spring Honors Convocation.

Although the number of Distinguished Teaching Awards is as yet undecided, Harding said, two or three probably will be presented.

Edward Hirsch, NU Foundation vice-president, said

two awards, financed by the foundation and the Annis Chaikin Sorensen Awards, definitely will be given.

The Sorensen Award, recognizing excellence in humanities teaching, was started in 1968 by the Sorensen family to recognize Sorensen's 80th birthday, Hirsch said.

In 1966 the Amoco Foundation, then called the Standard Oil Foundation, Inc., donated \$5,000 to the university foundation, he said. Three thousand dollars was to go toward Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Hirsch said NU will decide to which campuses the three awards will go.

Procedures for nominating distinguished teachers vary by college, Harding said.

"In each college, a committee screens the candidates and sends nominees forward to the vice-chancellor of academic affairs," he said. Each college has a quota of two candidates but the Arts and Sciences College can nominate four.

Colleges set up their own nominating criteria, he said. Supporting letters from faculty members, alumni and students, and student evaluation forms are the basis for their decisions, he said.

After each college nominates a teacher, the nomination

is forwarded to the Teaching Council. The council makes recommendations to the vice-chancellor for academic affairs, who then decides the award winners.

Recommendations for the 1976 Distinguished Teaching Awards now are being accepted. Anyone wishing to nominate an instructor may send the nomination and reasons for nomination to the dean of the instructor's college.

Award winners approve of prize

A sampling of past Distinguished Teaching Award winners indicated they favor continuing the awards because of the personal boost and demonstration of what they called UNL's concern about good teaching.

Lowell Moser, a professor of Agronomy who received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1974, said that since he has received the award, he has been working harder to keep the quality of his teaching high.

"I never expected to get it, but after I got it it has challenged me to do the best I can," he said.

He added that he thinks the award helps improve instruction at UNL.

"It is a tremendous moral booster because it shows UNL is concerned about good teaching," Moser said.

Bernice Slote, an English professor who won the Sorensen award in 1975, said that winning the award has not changed her teaching but has made teaching more of a joy.

"There are many good teachers and all can't be recognized," she said. "It is a boost to the teachers that get them, and the teachers who see that people are recognized are happy to see that this kind of award is made."

She added that recognizing good teaching helps the university.

"Other colleges across the country measure a university on whether it recognizes good teaching," she said. "It also raises the university in the eyes of the teaching profession."

Jerry Petr, an economics professor who received a Distinguished Teaching Award last year, said receiving the award has affected his teaching.

"It has caused me to want to give students a product in the classroom showing the kind of teaching worthy of receiving the award," he said.

"Distinguished Teaching Awards say something about the university caring about the quality of teaching on campus," he said.

Police halt student summer job hiring; campus officials' reactions are mixed

By Joe Hudson

UNL athletic and criminal justice dept. officials say they are not bothered by Lincoln Police Chief George Hansen's decision to stop offering summer jobs to select athletes and law students.

But Donald Shaneyfelt, Law College assistant dean, said students will be losing an "excellent experience" because of Hansen's decision.

Since 1947, certain UNL athletes have worked alongside patrolmen during the summer, and law students have worked with police dept. detectives since 1969. Both groups of students carried guns, which was one cause of concern for Hansen, who said he did not want untrained people on the street. The students underwent a one-day training program, compared with the minimum seven-week course required of full-time officers by Nebraska law.

Robert F. Holbert, vice-chairman of the criminal justice dept., said his department had nothing to do with the program, and that students received no academic credit from the department for their work.

Some athletes who participated were criminal justice

majors, Holbert said, but only by coincidence. Two of last summer's six participants, John Lee and Ron Pruitt, were criminal justice students.

The criminal justice dept. offers no internships because of understaffing, Holbert said.

"Internships need to be well-planned and thought out, and supervised by someone from the department," Holbert said. Close supervision is difficult because the department has only four instructors compared with 450 criminal justice majors, he said.

Athletic Director Bob Devaney supported Hansen's reasoning, and said there are "plenty of other jobs around town" that football players can get.

Shaneyfelt said the program provided insights for the three or four law students participating as well as those who did not work in the program.

"They were able to gain insights into the problems of the police department and the practical side of criminal law," Shaneyfelt said. "It not only benefits them, but also their classmates to whom they could relate their experiences."

No similar jobs or internships are offered by the Law College, Shaneyfelt said.

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