

Academic credit is sought for ASUN senators

By Barbara Lutz

Credit should be given where credit is due, according to Paul Morrison, ASUN second vice-president.

And the academic credit he is seeking for ASUN senators, he said, likely will be at UNL next fall.

Morrison, a political science graduate student from St. Paul, said he has discussed the idea with the Political Science and University Studies Depts., but was turned down.

University Studies currently gives credit to Model United Nations participants and Morrison said when he asked for similar credit for ASUN senators, "they felt like we were searching for freebies."

"The Political Science Dept. (said it) couldn't draw any correlation between what ASUN does and what is taught in political science," he said.

"Negative response"

Mary Jenkins, ASUN first vice-president, said when Morrison presented his ideas about Senate credit to ASUN's Executive Committee, "it met with some negative response."

The senior french and pre-med major from Lincoln said the committee "thought students should go into student government to represent the students, not for their own self-interest."

ASUN senators are required by its Constitution to attend meetings regularly and are encouraged to be on an ASUN standing committee or a college advisory board, Morrison said.

Jack Baier, assistant dean of student development, said when he was teaching at Southern Illinois University (SIU) a student affairs course for student personnel, similar to Morrison's plan, was offered.

"It wasn't a way of giving senators credit," Baier said. The SIU course studied the university's government system, the role of each office and its policies.

Meeting once a week, the class was open to any student, not just those in student government, he said. However, class members were predominantly student organization and student government executives, he said.

Morrison, presidential candidate for the Alliance of Concerned Students party, said he will postpone his work on organizing the class until after the ASUN elections. He said he then would discuss the idea with UNL's education psychology graduate program, which Morrison said has a course similar to the one at SIU. He said he hopes an undergraduate course in student personnel will be created to teach students' roles in university government.

Baier said the plans for a seminar class in student personnel at UNL are "very preliminary." However, Morrison said "it is favorable (likely) that we'll have it (at UNL) next fall."

Educational Psychology Dept. Chairman Ken Orton said he "hasn't heard anything about (the course) yet," but he's "sure it'll get to me sometime."

"We can't take a course taught at one university (SIU) and transplant it (to UNL)," Baier said. There are too many differences in course work, academic departments and administration to make a smooth transition, he said.

Student government benefits vary

Student government benefits, including salaries and academic credit, vary across the state. Tom Carney, 1975-76 student body president of Wayne State College, surveyed student government benefits and found that seven of ten state schools offer no form of academic credit, while six have no monetary benefits.

The results of his survey follow:

- University of Nebraska at Omaha: academic credit, no pay.
- UNL: September through March: president \$1,100, vice-presidents \$950; April through June: president \$244, vice-presidents \$211; combined summer salary \$600.
- Nebraska Wesleyan University: no credit, no salary.
- Hastings College: president \$200 a semester; vice-president \$100 a semester; secretary/treasurer \$150 a semester.
- Doane College: no benefits.
- Wayne State University: president, vice-president and secretary \$100 tuition waiver a semester and three credit hours annually.
- Creighton University: president \$1,800 a year; four vice-presidents each \$900.
- Chadron State College: no salaries.
- Southeast Nebraska Technical Community College: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, one-half tuition remission.
- Peru State College: one hour credit in political science independent study.

Approved CDC money is still unused

By Liz Crumley

Money approved by the Lincoln City Council last August to be used with university funds for helping low-income persons has not been used yet and will not be used until at least September, according to Ted Wright, director of the UNL Community Resource and Research Center.

The money is to help establish a community design center (CDC), which would provide architectural and planning services to persons who normally could not afford them, said Nancy Usnick, planner of Lincoln's Urban Development Dept.

These services would include architectural designs for home rehabilitation for low-income persons and planning for community developments such as mini-parks for children, Usnick said.

Lincoln appropriated \$8,000 of its general fund on Aug. 31 to be used with matching UNL funds for the center. The general fund is money paid by city taxpayers.

Still tentative

However, according to Wright, because of a commitment to continue work on a similar project in Omaha, the plans for a Lincoln CDC still are tentative.

UNL architecture graduate students would help provide the CDC services and would receive academic credit, he said, but because there is a decreasing number of graduate students taking a design course which works with the CDC, most of them are working with the Omaha CDC.

The Omaha CDC was established by the university in 1969, he said, but because there is no Architecture College at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the students who work on the center must come from UNL, he explained.

Wright added that student involvement in the CDC is necessary.

"Even if it doesn't tie into educational activity, there's nothing unique about it (CDC) being (planned) at a university," he said.

Problems

Other problems in establishing the Lincoln CDC involve setting up an advisory board for the center and obtaining projects for students to work on, he said.

Wright said he expects project ideas to come from the community. However, he said, he is concerned that all ideas from the community might not relate to pressing problems of the community.

The advisory committee would consist of community residents, professional architects, UNL professionals and representatives of various city planning departments. Project ideas would be presented to the committee for approval, he said.

No one has been hired to supervise the center because the city's appropriation occurred in the middle of the "job cycle" when most June graduates had been hired, he said. The appropriation didn't include enough money to hire someone on a permanent basis, he added.

Someone probably would be hired this summer, he said.

It is uncertain whether unused appropriated money could be used the second year, Wright said.

"There is no need to ask for money for the second year when we haven't used the money for the first year," he said.

He said he hopes the center will "have its doors open" by Sept. 1, but emphasized that plans still are "very tentative."

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