

New policy...

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"My real concern is that people (hiring officials) won't accept it," he said. "I'm perfectly happy with the pass/fail system, but I wonder what reaction there will be to it."

Enriquez said that with lesson plans, meetings and counseling it is "extremely hard to find the time" for the cooperating teacher and student teacher to decide which competencies have been fulfilled and when.

"This system is unique, but in some ways it might be worse," Enriquez said. No option has been left to switch a student teacher's pass/fail back to a letter grade if the system should ever change back, he said.

Students still may take student teaching by letter grade, an option which is "misunderstood a little bit," said Ward Sybouts, chairman of the Secondary Education Dept.

Those who want a letter grade must petition Alfrey and contract the grade they would like to receive, he said.

No awareness

There is "not a sufficient amount of awareness on the part of the students" as far as the new policy is concerned, Sybouts said. Upcoming discussions with students may be one solution to that problem, he added.

Sybouts said there was a student on the Secondary Education Curriculum Committee during the planning stages of the new policy, but the student was not able to attend all the meetings.

"It was intended that students should be told they could have it (student teaching) graded" last spring at registration time, Sybouts said. "Whether we goofed, I don't know."

The change was made to pass/fail because feedback from employers also indicated that grades weren't that

important to them because there were so many "A" student teachers, Sybouts said.

Sybouts said information still is being gathered from school officials and students as to how the pass/fail policy affects them. He said this kind of information was insufficiently collected before the policy was initiated.

Issue open

The pass/fail policy is "very definitely an open issue," Sybouts said. "It might change back to grades, but I really don't think it will hurt students graduating."

Eleven students have opted for a letter grade so far this semester, Alfrey said.

"It is a very simple thing to do to switch to a grade," he said. The cooperating teacher, supervisor and student teacher decide what is expected of the student to get the grade they would like.

A UNL Teacher Placement survey prompted the change to the pass/fail system, Alfrey said. This survey showed school officials ranked fifth in importance behind the personal interview, written recommendations by the student's supervisor and cooperating teacher, other faculty recommendations and overall grade point average.

Alfrey said it is "difficult to objectively evaluate" student teachers through the 23 competencies. The competency-based program will tell school officials more about a student's strengths and weaknesses as a teacher than a grade would, he said.

Supervisors and cooperating teachers try to resolve any difference in interpreting the competencies, Alfrey said, but if this is not possible, two separate evaluations would be written and placed in the student's file.

Schools similar

Alfrey said many teaching programs are using the pass/fail system, including Kearney State College, Concordia and UNL's Home Economics Dept. and students

are experiencing "no repercussions and no problems-getting jobs."

Lee DeJonge, director of the Teacher Placement Office, said the student teaching grade is "way down the list in importance" to hiring officials.

"An A won't tell an administrator about his (the student teacher's) skills or shortcomings," he said. The competencies are more detailed than a grade, he said, because a student receives a rating of "needs improvement," "successful," "exemplary" or "not applicable" on each competency.

Hiring officials don't see a student's transcript unless he asks for them, De Jonge said, because grades are not included in his credentials.

Ronald Joekel, associate dean in Teachers College said another reason for switching to the pass/fail policy was because nearly 86 per cent of all student teachers received A's in their student teaching.

Joekel said this could indicate that NUSTEP (a preliminary course to student teaching) is doing its job well—teaching students what to expect in a classroom and how to be flexible.

"If students deserve an A, they ought to get an A," he said. "I don't care if they all get A's."

But if high grades mean switching classes to pass/fail, Joekel said there are others besides student teaching that might warrant the change.

Joekel said there is a "need to have better data about what hiring officials look at and if it (pass/fail) hurts in employment."

There should be "self-determination on the part of students as far as grades," he said. "My real concern is that students should have the option to take it (student teaching) for a grade" without feeling intimidated by having to petition.

Lincoln almost didn't get Capitol

By Mary Jo Howe

Once placed third on the list of architectural wonders of the world, the Nebraska State Capitol may never have been located in Lincoln if the first Nebraska governor had not died days after taking his oath of office.

Francis Burt, a South Carolina lawyer and editor, was appointed in 1854 by President Franklin Pierce to be governor of the Nebraska Territory. But on his trip west, Burt became ill and died soon after arriving in Bellevue.

If Burt had lived, Bellevue would have been the territorial capital. A political deal located it at Omaha creating a rift between residents north and south of the Platte River. When Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867, the more populous South Platte district was able to name a site south of the river—the current site of Lincoln.

The first state capitol built in Lincoln in 1869 was



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Among the many beautiful furnishings in the Nebraska State Capitol are the fireplace and murals in the reception room of the governor's office.

said to be so fragile it was necessary to warn the senators and representatives not to applaud one another's speeches because it might cause the building to fall down. The structure, which cost \$76,000 was built of native limestone and lumber.

A second state capitol replaced the first in 1886 at a cost of \$691,000, but by 1919 the building no longer had enough space for the needs of state government.

World War I memorial

In 1919, the Nebraska Legislature initiated proceedings to build a new Capitol as a memorial to World War I Nebraska soldiers.

A capitol commission was authorized by Gov. Samuel McKelvie to select an architect from the most prominent firms in the state and the nation. Their aim was first to produce a working home for the state governmental activities, second, to produce an inspiring monument worthy of the state and third, to do this without friction, scandal, extravagance or waste.

Eighteen months later, the commission announced its selection of Bertram Goodhue of New York City. His plans were unlike those of competitors who reflected the traditional style of the United States Capitol. It was the first example of a state capitol with a tower containing usable space as a major feature.

The design also allowed for the existing building to be used until space in the new building was provided by building around the old capitol in sections. In this way state activities were accommodated without paying outside rentals during the period of construction. An estimated \$750,000 was saved.

Goodhue also selected persons to complete the sculpture and interior murals and mosaics to create a unified design in style and subject matter.

Mill levy assessed.

Upon completion, Nebraska's Capitol was entirely paid for by an annual mill levy assessed during the construction period from January 1920 to January 1935. Total cost in 1935 was \$9,800,449.

In 1932, 500 architects were polled to determine the 25 best built buildings of all time in the world. The capitol based on its modern design, use of interior decor and conservation of space and money, placed ahead of such monuments as the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, and the Cathedral of Chartres in France. It was surpassed only by the Lincoln Memorial and the Empire State Bldg.

The structure is faced with select Indiana limestone from the Bedford Quarries of Bedford, Ind.

The basic square is supposed to symbolize the broad expanse of the Nebraska Plains.

The 400-foot tower represents the rise of life on the Plains and the dreams and aspirations of Nebraska. Resting on the dome is *The Sower*. Made of one-inch thick bronze, it stands 19 feet tall and weighs 15,000 lbs.

Capitol will get historic designation

Nebraska's 44-year-old Capitol will be designated a national historic landmark at a dedication ceremony Saturday.

It is not true that the Capitol has never been officially dedicated, as has been reported, according to Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan. Although the Capitol was completed in 1932, the building was not dedicated until 1967.

"They must have forgotten about it," he said, referring to the 35-year delay in the building's dedication.

The Capitol will join 15 Nebraska landmarks that the National Park Service has designated historical landmarks,

including the William Jennings Bryan home, Lincoln; Willa Cather home, Red Cloud; and Signal Butte, Scotts Bluff County.

The dedication is being made this year because of the bicentennial, Whelan said.

Officials scheduled to attend Saturday's dedication include Gov. J. James Exon, U.S. Sen. Roman Hruska, U.S. Rep. Charles Thone and Whelan.

John Rivers, great grandson of the capitol's designer, Bertram Goodhue, also will attend the ceremony. Rivers will speak during the dedication.

short stuff

The Overseas Opportunities Center (OOC) would like people who want to share travel abroad experiences to become resource people for the center's files. Contact OCC, Nebraska Union 345.

Residents of Harper-Schram-Smith residence halls may attend a presentation about alcohol at 6:30 tonight.

It is in conjunction with Residence Hall Association Week. The "Pub" at Cather-Pound-Neihardt halls will have "Casino Night" beginning at 8 p.m. The pool at Abel-Sandoz will be open tonight. Admission is free.

The Home Economics Graduate Student Association will meet at 4 p.m. today in Home Economics Bldg. 104.

The UNL Center for Co-Equal Education, a project to assist educators in the implementation of Title IX, will sponsor an open house from 2 to 7 p.m. today at Henzlik Hall 214.

Prof. R. A. MacLeod of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, will speak about *The Role of Inorganic Ions in the Marine Pseudomonas* at 3:30 p.m. today in Bessey Hall Auditorium.

The Nebraska East Union needs a married student to serve on the East Union Task Force and help plan programs. A person associated with East Campus is preferred. Call 472-2181 or 464-7138 for details.

The Institute for International Studies has compiled a list of potential employers in the international field. Students may get the list at Oldfather Hall 1033.

Community Involvement Services (CIS) is looking for students to volunteer as tutors for junior and senior high school students. One child will be assigned to a tutor, with a commitment of two hours a week for the semester in which the child is registered. For details contact CIS, Union 200, or call 472-2486.

The Chinese Student Association will sponsor a movie at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Union Small Auditorium. Admission is \$1.25 for members and \$1.75 for non-members.

daily nebraskan

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