

Director: Low-income white students need help

Low-income white students at UNL are depriving themselves of the financial aid they are entitled to, according to the director of multi-cultural affairs.

Director Jimmie Smith said applications from low-income white students for financial aid are minimal. "We have many program services that we can offer those low-income white students if they would just come forward and apply," Smith said.

Counselors in his office lose contact with most of the low-income whites who are contacted in Nebraska high schools, he said.

"We talk to interested low-income students in a very

personalized approach and encourage them to attend some postsecondary school," he added.

Prevented by pride

Pride often prevents low-income whites from attending those high school meetings, Smith said. He added he thinks many low-income white students try to avoid association with a low-income family and therefore will not apply for assistance.

"Many low-income whites will try to upgrade their dress and speech," Smith said, "but that won't change their academic skills and their need for financial aid or personal counseling."

He said he thinks better cooperation between the Scholarships and Financial Aids Office and multi-cultural affairs is essential.

"We receive a list of all minority students, but we have no way of contacting low-income whites when they apply for financial aid because the financial aids office is the only department that has those records," Smith said.

"The low-income whites need to be identified, have their needs diagnosed and then have them referred to our department."

Information is confidential

Jack Ritchie, director of scholarships and financial aids, said the information his office receives is strictly confidential and cannot release any information about low-income students.

"I don't want the students thinking that personal information will be released about them when they come in to apply for financial aid," Ritchie said.

He said the student decides whether or not information can be released. Financial reports involve the family as well as the student, Ritchie said.

"I can understand Mr. Smith's desire to receive the names of low-income white students," Ritchie said, "But we have to maintain a level of confidence between the student and our office."

Three candidates for NU president mum on job offer

Three persons mentioned as being considered by the NU Board of Regents to replace D. B. Varner as NU president refused to comment on whether they had been contacted by the regents about the job.

"You don't really expect me to answer that question, do you?" asked Howard Neville, president of the University of Maine at Orono when asked if he had been contacted.

Neville did say, however, that he had talked to Varner by telephone during the last week.

The only thing Neville would say was discussed during that call was the Nebraska football team's chances of playing in the Orange Bowl.

Regent chairman James Moylan of Omaha said three of the six persons under consideration had been contacted by the regents and have shown interest in the position. He said no responses have been received from the three.

Clayton Yeutter, U.S. special trade ambassador, and Harold F. "Cotton" Robinson, chancellor of Western Carolina University at Cullowhee, N.C., also declined to comment on whether they had been contacted.

Both said any information would have to come from the regents.

Yeutter, whose position of roving ambassador is connected with the White House, said he has no set plans concerning what he will do after the Jimmy Carter administration takes office Jan. 20.

He said he planned to remain in his present position until after Jan. 20 to help with the transition of administrations.

Two other mentioned candidates, John C. Calhoun Jr., vice president for academic affairs at Texas A & M University at College Station, and Charles E. Bishop, president of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, both were out of town and could not be reached for comment.



Photo by Ted Kirk

These two tourist-types aren't visiting Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. Nor are they just passing through or cooling their heads. They are on display. For another picture and more information, see page 13.

Committee selection questioned

By Deb Bockhahn

The Fees Allocation Board (FAB) reviewed complaints Wednesday night that accused the ASUN executive committee of filling the vice chancellor and president search committees positions "without any chance for the average student to apply."

In a letter to FAB, Bruce Whitacre said that ASUN didn't hold any kind of interview procedure to screen the applicants and that "only students who were known by the committee were chosen for the posts."

The persons chosen for the search committee positions were not representative of the "average" student, he stated.

ASUN President Bill Mueller, said the committee appointments were advertised in the Daily Nebraskan, but that formal interviews were not held for the positions.

"To explain things further we're having problems with finding students who are interested in committee posts," Mueller said. "And maybe we should have had interviews, but the three execs made the final selections."

Scott Cook, ASUN Senator also submitted a letter of complaint that criticized the "effectiveness and responsibility" of ASUN executives. Cook said he based his opinion on the fact that ASUN didn't have their office hours posted until two weeks ago—"something that should've been done at the beginning of the semester."

"I admit we didn't have the hours posted on time, but I don't sit behind the desk very often either," Mueller said. "I think I've done my job—I've read the constitution and attend all the meetings. I don't think the job of ASUN president can be run completely from behind a desk either, because it requires other involvement."

Former two-year ASUN senator, Frank Thompson, said he didn't think ASUN executives should be paid for their positions. "I've been associated with another student government and they don't pay their execs," Thompson said. "Under what criteria are you giving them funds?"

FAB member Paul Morrison, former ASUN exec, proposed that ASUN execs be paid on an hourly rate, instead of monthly.

"It's not a proposal to check on their performances,

but it's based on time spent doing ASUN-related work," Morrison said.

FAB voted 5-3-1 that ASUN be required to report to FAB within two weeks of the criteria and procedures that determine ASUN executive salaries.

In other business, FAB member Britt Miller announced his resignation from FAB.

"I feel that working under the university government system as a whole is totally useless," Miller said. "Before students can deal with the real issues that face them, we have to be able to have input into the university, to allocate our funds without administration approval. The whole system of student government has to be totally reformed."

Exon proposes better understanding, public education about highway safety

There is a need to promote better understanding, communication and education of the public about highway safety, Gov. J. James Exon said Wednesday.

Exon was moderator for the Super Safety Seminar at the Cornhusker Hotel. Eight panelists addressed more than 120 people on traffic safety and what is being done about it.

Exon said 83 to 93 per cent of all traffic accidents are caused by driver errors.

"We must redirect our efforts to deal directly in changing the attitude of the driver," Exon said.

Everett McBride, regional administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, also stressed more public information and education.

"Highway safety is a societal problem," he said. "If the people don't perceive it, then get it across to them."

McBride pointed out that 13,000 lives could be saved nationwide if 80 per cent of the drivers wore seat belts.

Dr. Kenneth Kimball, a physician from Kearney, said he thinks people need to be trained in emergency medical care.

Most of the emergency medical services are related to response after an accident has occurred, rather than prevention of the accident.

If a person is involved in a traffic accident in Nebraska today, he has less chance of surviving than if he had been shot in Vietnam, he said.

One reason for this, he explained, is the shortage of doctors.

Eighty per cent of Nebraska hospitals do not have full-time doctors, he said. If an accident occurred, the chances of a doctor being at the hospital at that time are decreasing. He suggested the building of a safety center and a communications resource center as a partial answer.

Lincoln Municipal Judge Thomas McManus stressed involving the community with the problem of traffic safety.

"Ideas simply by themselves result in zero," he said. "Unless they are combined with action and leadership, they don't amount to a damn," he said.