

GLC provides student-solon link

By Janet Lliteras

Most Nebraska senators look at students as a source of information, which is why the ASUN Government Liaison Committee (GLC) was formed, said John Welch, GLC co-chairman.

GLC, formerly called the Legislative Liaison Committee, is interested in city, state and national affairs that concern students, Welch said, with the emphasis on the state level.

Most senators don't have time to study such issues as the university budget, Welch explained, "especially on the salary they get. Our main purpose is to provide information, and influence them in that way."

"Some senators are annoyed by us," Welch said, "because they feel the student is being presumptuous. They wonder 'what is a student coming in here for?'"

The responsibility of members is two-fold, he said. Depending on how much time a student has, Welch explained, each participates in some type of research, such as faculty member salary reports or the university budget. Second, semester, each student is assigned to a senator or senators, depending on how many members are on the committee.

"We try to have them work with their own senators from their district," Welch said, but it's not possible when there are 49 districts and about 20 members.

Greg Johnson, the other co-chairman, said there are about 25 students in GLC, with membership growing steadily.

"Any student is welcome," he said. "It's an educational process, especially if one is majoring in political science or is interested in the government."

GLC is drafting a landlord-tenant bill to protect the damage deposit students are required to pay when they rent an apartment or house.

The law doesn't have any penalty with it, Johnson explained. Landlords just try to wait the tenant out and never return their \$150 to \$200 deposit, he said.

Ken Christoffersen, a GLC member, said the new bill would require the landlord to put the deposit in a trust fund so he "won't end up spending it."

Welch said the group last year tried to introduce an alcohol bill that would override the NU Board of Regents' decision restricting alcohol in the residence halls and on campus, but they ran into problems such as student apathy and a "tremendously overwhelming negative reaction from the senators." GLC decided to drop the issue this year, he said, so as not to divert efforts from what they consider "more worthy issues," such as the landlord-tenant bill.



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