

Lonely, religious, conservative? You fit right in here



By Paula Dittrick

The average UNL student is lonelier, more religious and more politically conservative than other university students according to a report on undergraduate education compiled by 12 UNL administrators and faculty members.

The academic planning committee produced the student profile included in a report *Vol. I, The Campus Report*, often called the quality report.

The report stated that although UNL students scored above average marks of loneliness, UNL freshmen "participate or claim to participate" in more student organizations and activities than the average American college student.

Claiming the UNL student is "slightly more religious"

than the national average, the report said students are from "predominately rural homes having close family ties."

Some 90 per cent of UNL freshmen ranked in the upper 50 per cent of their high school graduating classes and scored about the national average on the American College Test, a college entrance exam.

The report listed no further entrance exam comparisons.

Drop-outs

Some 52 per cent of UNL students drop out of college while the national drop-out average is 50 per cent, the report said.

A study conducted by the teaching and learning center concluded students drop out because of social and emotional stress rather than because of academic or financial problems.

The center devised a program to help students cope with stress and 80 per cent of those participating completed two more years at NU, the report said.

Members of the Academic Planning Committee which compiled the report included Chairman David Fowler, vice director of the School of Music and Adam Breckenridge, chancellor of Academic Affairs.

The data on loneliness came from research conducted within NU's Human Development and Family Dept., according to Shirley Seever, Human Development and Family instructor.

Seever studied loneliness among college students as her masters thesis which she completed in 1972. Her conclusions were based upon the 345 questionnaires UNL students returned in November, 1971, she said.

The questionnaires, a "measure of the student's perceptions of their own loneliness," asked if the student felt lonely in particular situations and if the student often felt lonely, Seever said.

Comparisons

She said she made no comparisons herself but that

other people in her department conducted research on loneliness in other age groups and she knew research comparisons were being made.

She said the research was part of a project initiated by John Woodward, associate dean of the College of Home Economics. Woodward could not be reached for comment.

The report said UNL students "do not expect to be satisfied with their college experience," and "they do not view themselves as being as confident academically and intellectually as a typical college student."

No explanation was given for these statements.

UNL students were listed above average in their requests for assistance in making educational and vocational plans. Students criticized the quality of advising, listing such complaints as "advisors don't care about their students," and "advisors have too many advisees to do the job well."

The data in the report showed that students had very limited contact with advisors during the students' first semester on campus.

Objectives of the quality report were to provide NU officials, staff and Nebraska legislators with a four-year plan for improving undergraduate education.

In a section about the Counseling Center, the report said "almost any criterion which is used would indicate that we (NU) are currently understaffed by at least two positions."

The report noted that workshops conducted by the center to improve faculty advisement demonstrated "tangible steps" can be taken to help improve advising practices.

The workshops would be more effective if granted \$1,500 for supplies and if faculty members are provided with "stipends for participation," the report said.

The report was distributed to members of the Legislative Appropriations Committee during NU budget hearings.

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Tour registration for winter flights starts in summer

UNL students have the opportunity to earn college credit overseas in 21 Flight and Study Tour classes next winter.

A passenger flight chartered yearly by the UNL Student Flights and Study Tours office will enable students to travel to such countries as Spain, France, Germany, Peru, Scandinavia and Israel. Courses are being offered in modern languages, drama, English, journalism, architecture and anthropology.

Cost for the tours varies with the classes, ranging from \$600 to \$800, including airfare, according to Evelyn Jacobsen, assistant coordinator of the program. A down-payment of \$100 is required on the \$354 airfare at time of registration. If a tour is cancelled because of lack of response, the \$100 will be refunded, she said.

Registration for the study tours will begin this summer, Jacobsen said. Students in classes will travel as a group, and persons not in classes but wishing to make the trip may make reservations Aug. 29. These persons must find their own transportation and lodgings while overseas, she said.

Classes are limited to 10 students, she said, but there may be cancellations.

The UNL charter leaves Lincoln Dec. 27 for London and Zurich and returns Jan. 14 from Paris and London.

Persons may register for the Flights and Study Tours in Nebraska Union 345.

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