

Requirement may put student noses to grindstone

By Anne Carothers

Business college students may be putting their noses a little closer to the grindstone to maintain a 2.5 grade point average to stay in the College of Business Administration (CBA), according to some business majors.

CBA revealed last Thursday stricter enrollment requirements to maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain a business college major. This requirement only will affect students enrolling in CBA this June and after, and is predicted to cut some 376 students from CBA.

Kevin Meyer, a junior from Beatrice, said he does not like the idea too much. He said he agrees that enrollment is getting too large, but said he thinks the college should be enlarged rather than cutting enrollment.

"There should have been more student input on this decision," added Meyer, who is a member of the scholarships, honors and awards committee at CBA.

"The whole problem is that the college is just not getting the money it needs for the enrollment it has. The deans are very student-oriented but they just don't have the money," he added.

Meyer said he also is worried about the effect the 2.5 GPA requirement will have on grade inflation at CBA.

Low inflation

CBA has relatively low grade inflation compared to other colleges at UNL, Meyer said. He said he thinks the new 2.5 requirement could hurt the college by increasing the grade inflation.

"It could go either way, students could think the school was easy to get a 2.5 in or they could think the 2.5 GPA requirement was an indication of a good school," Meyer said.

Meyer said he thinks the requirement will cut the size

of freshman and sophomore classes more than junior or senior classes.

Many incoming freshman may be scared off by the 2.5 GPA requirement and may go to another college, he said.

"If I were starting out as a freshman, I would have problems because they are requiring more math and computer science and fewer electives," Meyer said.

Tom Geu, a freshman from Sidney, said: "It might be a plausible alternative in the short run, I can't see how they can justify it in the long run."

"A lot of these kids are coming to get a broad business background. They will probably go back to their family business or their farm. Their grade point isn't that important to them."

"I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of these people dropped out. A lot of them are using college as a social experience as much as an academic experience," Geu added.

Cut

Geu said he thinks the new curriculum that requires more math and computer science also will cut the number of people enrolling in CBA.

Nancy Smith, president of CBA student advisory board and a senior from Omaha, said she wishes she could have received the benefits of the new curriculum when she was going to school.

"I'd like to see stricter policies, I think it is good for the college," Smith said. "Those students that want to stay in the college will put in the extra effort to get the 2.5. It's unfortunate for those students that can't pull a 2.5 GPA."

Smith said she thinks the new enrollment requirement will cut back the size of the classes. She said the large classes hurt the chances for class discussion.

"The main problem is that the college is not allotted enough funds. Under the circumstances, this seems to be the only thing they could do," Smith said.

Margaret McCandless, a sophomore from Lincoln, said she thinks the new enrollment requirement was discriminatory to those students between 2.0 and 2.5 GPA who would be able to get into any other college at UNL.

She also said it is unfair that people in other colleges will be able to take beginning business courses and the 2.5 GPA requirement will not apply to them.

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Task force plan aimed at change

By Scott Whitcomb

A proposal to create a task force which may mean a major addition or renovation of the Nebraska Union will be introduced at the Union Advisory Board meeting Wednesday night.

The advisory board's facility planning committee is sponsoring the proposal, said Clay Statmore, planning committee chairman.

The task force would assess the attitudes of the university population about the Union's future, said Statmore a law school freshman.

The last two Union task forces made proposals which resulted in major additions to the Union in 1959 and 1969, he said.

"It is within our (Union Advisory Board) bylaws that we shall assume the role of advocate for services," Statmore said. "We are supposed to represent all Nebraska Union publics."

Phase one of the task force proposal would be to determine public opinion about the Union's future needs, Statmore said. Phase two would be to "deliver to the Union staff as good a recommendation as possible," he added.

"We are not specifically hunting for a new addition," Statmore said. "I personally don't think we need one because of declining enrollment. But if the task force survey shows that the public wants an addition then we will work through the proper channels to achieve it."

The Union Advisory Board's task, Statmore said, "is to vote on the goals and structure of the task force and to charge it with duties."

He said the task force would probably consist of a few board members, members from the university central planning committee, staff and students.

If the Union Advisory Board passes the task force proposal, Statmore said he hopes to have the task force in full gear by next fall.

He said the task force proposal came from Union director Al Bennett.

"I simply suggested the possibility for study of such a committee" Bennett said. "My objectives were for study, not demand. There is currently no plan in hand."

He said the Union Advisory Board's bylaws provide that the initiation of union improvements is the board's task.

"I am simply turning the tables and advising them (the board) to proceed with that set of tasks," he said.

"Frankly I am delighted about it," he said of the proposal. "It seems clear that through aging, the Union needs renovation. I think the advisory board has high visibility and a very useful task."

Among the suggestions Bennett said he would favor are: the addition of a parking garage, more recreation space, more bookstore and Union rental space and the addition of a drive-up window for the Gateway campus Bank.

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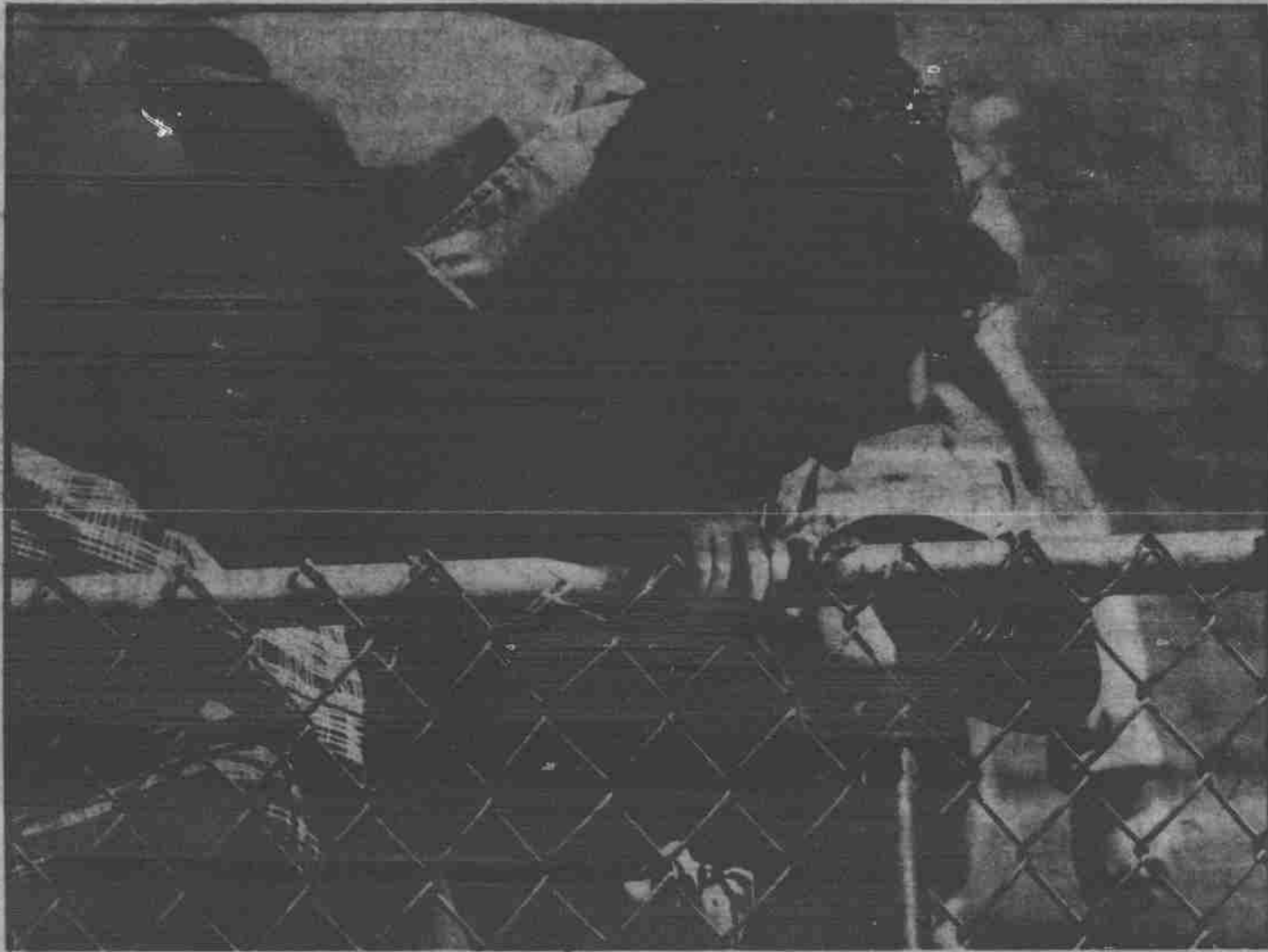


Photo by Ted Kirk

After a three-hour football scrimmage, the fans as well as the players can work up a real thirst.

NU to launch 3-year fund drive

By Marjie Lundstrom

A nation-wide campaign to raise \$25 million for areas of academic excellence at NU was announced Friday by the NU Foundation.

The fund drive may be "the most important single event in the history of these campuses," according to D.B. Varner, chairman of the foundation's board of directors.

The three-year campaign drive, entitled "Nebraska Campaign, A Commitment to Excellence," will supplement those areas not funded by on-going efforts of the foundation or by state tax dollars, Varner said.

"This is going to be my thing in life for the next five years," he said.

Clifford M. Hardin, vice chairman of the Ralston Purina Co. of St. Louis and former U.S. secretary of agriculture, will be chairman of the volunteer fund-raising campaign. Hardin was NU chancellor from 1954 to 1969.

Co-chairmen will be Eugene A. Conely of Omaha and Paul J. Amen of Lincoln. Joe W. Seacrest and R. Erle Campbell, both of Lincoln, will serve as honorary co-chairmen.

Varner listed five areas of need that will receive priority funding:

-Improved teaching and research, through support of endowed professorships, distinguished visiting faculty programs, and faculty research fellowships, with a minimum goal of \$5 million.

"A university is never any better than its faculty," Varner said.

-Honor scholarship and fellowship program for undergraduates and graduates with high academic ability, a minimum goal of \$4.5 million.

Of the top 100 high school graduates in Nebraska, NU loses about 40 to 50 because it cannot compete financi-

ally with other schools, Varner said.

-Improved learning resources, including increase library acquisitions and establishment of an intercampus library retrieval system and an intercampus closed circuit television with a minimum goal of \$2.5 million.

-Physical improvements, including a student-alumni building at the Medical Center, an auditorium attached to the Life Sciences Building at UNL, and a learning resource center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Library with a minimum goal of \$3 million.

"The most important physical facility needs are projects under consideration by the Legislature," Varner said. "The foundation should not raise money for projects normally funded by the Legislature."

-Special programs on all three campuses, with a minimum goal of \$10 million: UNL—A Center for Great Plains Studies, agricultural and water research, and a Center for the Study of American Business System. UNO—Center for Study of Metropolitan-Suburban Life and Study of the Problems of Aging. Medical Center—Medical research and health care teaching, and research and services for handicapped children.

Varner said the campaign's leadership is "fixed at top levels."

Amen said there will be "no fragmentation" in the campaign, calling it "one campaign for one total university."

Amen also stressed that funds will in no way replace state tax dollars, but will "provide the margin of excellence."

"I am convinced we can be successful," he said.

NU President Ronald Roskens said "gift support above basic appropriations does provide for the vital margin."

"We stand ready to help," he added.