

Union task force will meet

The task force studying any changes in the structure and services of the Nebraska Union will meet soon to begin the first step of a long-range renovation plan.

The task force is charged with determining the time table for proposed changes which could significantly alter the Union, according to its director. However, no actual changes will occur until 1980.

"The future needs of this facility simply have to be assessed. The assessment is the objective of the long range planning committee (task force)," said Allen Bennett, Union director.

The task force, formed last spring by the Union Advisory Board, this summer drafted a three-phase commitment to long-range planning. The phases are:

-to administer a survey to students, faculty members and administrators during the first semester of 1977-78 to determine their needs and wishes

-to analyze the results by the first semester of 1978-79 and suggest new service and changes in existing ones

-to plan for programming based on phase two recommendations. Phase three is to be completed by the end of second semester of 1978-79 but can be extended if needed.

"I think I've described roughly a three-year process when the time to make

changes is considered," Bennett said.

Junior Dave Roehr, president of the Union Advisory Board said that to get "a very accurate survey, we're going to get professional help." A Minneapolis firm which has conducted similar surveys at other universities is being hired. Bond reserves of \$30,000 are available to finance the survey.

Bennett said that "the real dilemma is a financial dilemma." All money for such capital improvements comes from the same bond reserve fund, supported by a portion of student fees. He said smaller improvements, such as renovating the Crib add up to a sizeable figure. "Ten thousand dollars here, \$12,000 somewhere else, you can add them up to a \$100,000 bill a year. We're trying to play a balance between drawing out each year and what's going in."

The same fund financed the construction of the Nebraska East Union and this year's student fees increase will help replenish the fund, he said.

"We want as much student input as we can get to meet the needs of the students," Roehr said. Currently, usage and revenue from the Union is declining, he said.

Interested students are welcome to join the task force, he said. It comprises four Union Advisory Board members, two faculty members and a central planning committee member.

Mead lab studies waste use

The NU field lab in Mead is studying the effectiveness of using agricultural and industrial waste in food production, according to Warren Sahs, assistant director.

Paunch manure, the undigested food in an animal's stomach; feedlot manure and ash residue from food processing plants now are being used on the Mead test farm in place of inorganic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, he said.

Composted organic material, which replaces inorganic fertilizers contain the necessary nutrients for crop production, he said. The goal of this research is to produce the same amount of crops using less synthetic materials, Sahs said.

Also, using more agricultural and industrial by-products instead of petroleum products, such as chemical fertilizers on the farm will conserve oil, he said.

"Although the project is in its third year, it may not show definite results for several years," he said, "because the past three years have been dry and the land is

not irrigated."

"Irrigated land shows results much sooner," he said.

Sahs expects that by next year the field using organic fertilizer will produce a net yield higher than that of the field using inorganic fertilizer, he said.

Sahs also is experimenting with crop rotation as a means of conserving fertilizer, he said.

"Corn has a tendency to get rootworm when it is planted in the same field year after year," he explained.

When it is rotated with clover and oats one season and soybeans the next season it not only helps eliminate rootworm, but also reduces the need for fertilizer because the other crops put nutrients back into the soil, he said.

In a related area of research, Sahs and Leon Chesnin, UNL associate agronomy professor are planning to investigate the possibility of using sewage sludge for fertilizer.

"We are composting it now, but we haven't started to use it yet," Sahs said.

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