

Students voice approval of ASUN fees allocation

By Mike Patten

ASUN control of fees allocation is agreeable to a majority of the students who testified at an open hearing before Wednesday night's ASUN meeting.

Only two people indicated reservations with the ASUN proposal to take control of the allocation process.

Former Fees Allocation Board (FAB) chairman Don Wesely said the senators would not have enough time to allocate fees and do senate work.

Wesely said FAB takes an average of four hours a week which he contends would not leave time for other ASUN functions.

Kevin Paul, a business college major, said he thinks the present senate would be able to allocate fees, but warned against the danger of "a well organized machine" gaining control of ASUN.

"If you can stay responsible, fine," he said. "However, we still have the Greek slate in our background."

"I don't think there is much question that ASUN can allocate our money. If ASUN is going to continue to be stable like this they can take the power."

Mike Gibson, president of the Residence Hall Association (RHA), said RHA voted unanimously to support the ASUN proposal. He said fee takeover would give ASUN more power.

"When you can put your hand into someone's back pocket and take his

money, you'd better believe you're going to get a crowd up here." ASUN holds its meetings on the second floor of the Union.

"Without the power that ASUN now has," he said. "It can only be a home for ex-debators and lobbyists."

Jaime Figueroa, vice president of the Latin American Students Association, said the senate should have the power to allocate money because FAB has done a bad job.

"In Panama, where I come from, we have a saying that it is better to redress an injustice than to perpetrate an error."

Paul Morrison, former ASUN second vice president and a former FAB member, said ASUN assuming the allocation process would not automatically give ASUN more credibility. Credibility only can come as a result of ASUN actions, he said.

"Credibility does not come as a result of how much you control," he said, "but how you act."

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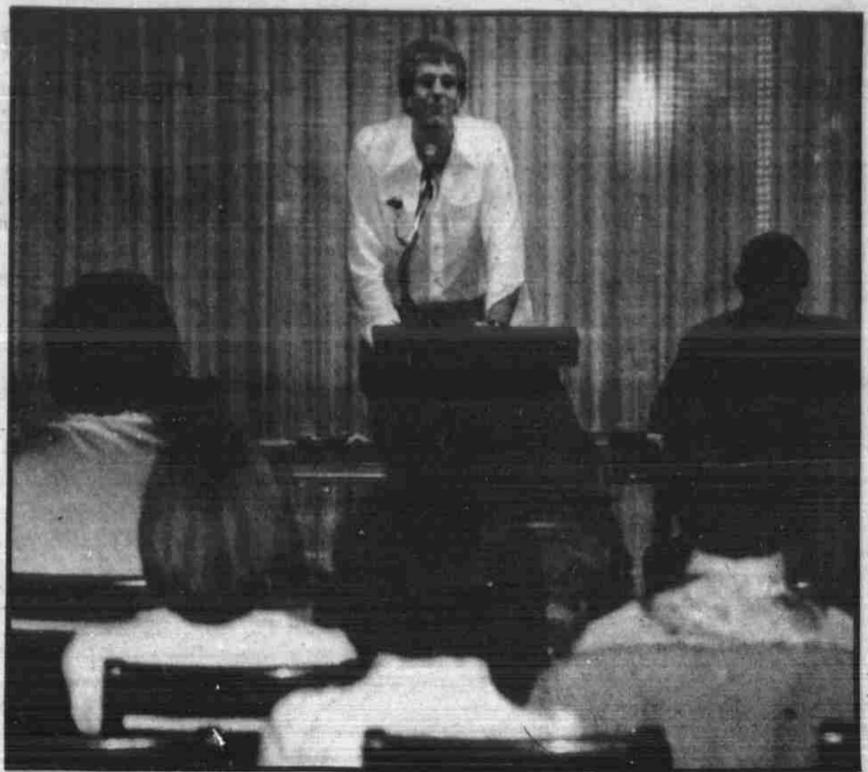


Photo by Mike Dahlheim

Kevin Paul, who calls himself a "concerned student," addresses ASUN senators at an open hearing on student fees allocation.

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Superintendents: high schoolers ready for college

By Barbara Lutz

Most high school graduates from Lincoln and Omaha schools are prepared for college, according to school superintendents from both cities.

However, Lincoln Public School Superintendent John Prasch said "for some students college entrance requirements are not tough enough. It is hard to make a blanket statement" on the success of entrance requirements, he said.

"By and large high school subjects don't have much effect" on what is required by college instructors, Prasch said.

NU regent Robert Simmons says he is concerned about academically deficient freshmen at NU (see related story.)

Prasch said the knowledge students gain by high school graduation "depends more on the individual than a specific high school course."

Deficiencies rare

University officials agree incoming freshmen with educational deficiencies are rare. Simmons has suggested that the university raise its admission standards to screen

out incoming freshmen in need of remedial education.

Prasch said Simmons' statement about remedial programs is another way of saying the university will take fewer students. However, "being more selective has not resulted in higher quality," he said.

H. Vaughn Phelps, superintendent of Westside Community Schools, said colleges should not need remedial courses because slower students or those not qualified will drop out the first semester or first year.

"If they can't cut it, they can't cut it," he said.

Phelps said information on Westside High School graduates indicate as college students, they did as well or better academically than they did in high school.

Prep courses

Omaha Public School Superintendent Owen Knutzen said college entrance requirements should not necessarily be tougher, but colleges should decide if they are going to accept everyone with a high school education, or only those with college preparatory courses.

None of the superintendents interviewed said their high schools has specific courses labeled "college preparatory courses," but there are extra-curricular programs to help students plan for college.

Prasch said students are advised not to depend on what is taught in high schools, but to see what colleges require, such as knowledge of a foreign language, basic math and English skills. In addition, he said, there has been "renewed emphasis on writing."

Limiting entrance to students who have taken college preparatory courses would be contrary to the "general American attitude that everyone ought to have a chance at a college education," Knutzen said.

A century ago only 50 per cent of the school-aged population was in school, Knutzen said, but today 92 per cent of the school aged children in the Midwest are staying through high school.

Knutzen said if the university wants to raise its admission standards to screen out incoming freshmen in need of remedial education, it will have to place more restrictions on those applying for higher education.

Course elimination would save money

Although NU is not required by law to accept any graduate from an accredited Nebraska high school, that is the policy the university currently follows, regent Robert Simmons said.

"The law is that the university can set its own entrance requirements," Simmons said. "The present policy is what the law used to be."

The Scottsbluff regent recommended last week that NU raise its admissions standards to screen out incoming freshmen in need of remedial education.

UNL Legal Counsel John Gourlay said there is a sound legal basis for Simmons' proposal.

A revision in the Nebraska statutes gave the Board of Regents power to set admission requirements, Gourlay said.

Simmons said higher admission standards would eliminate the cost of remedial education for academically unprepared freshmen. Some freshmen do not have the basic English and mathematics skills necessary for college work, he said.

"The Legislature is telling us now we can't afford the kind of university we want," Simmons said. By eliminating remedial education programs from the curriculum, the university can save some money, he said.

However, NU has only one remedial education course, according to academic officials.

Gerald Bowker, UNL assistant dean of academic services, said there are no such courses at UNL.

UNO admissions director David Harbeck said only UNO has a remedial education course, no-credit algebra.

UNO incoming freshmen are given a diagnostic exam that places them in English classes, Harbeck said.

However, he added, there is no course catering specifically to deficient students.

Ford at UNL today

Former president Gerald R. Ford is scheduled to attend classes at UNL today.

Ford will speak to some sections of Political Science 100, beginning at 10:30 this morning, and in graduate political science classes in the afternoon. Students must have tickets to attend these lectures.

Ford also will attend a civic dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Hilton.

Regent's task force sets hearing date to thoroughly examine the fees issue

In its second meeting since its creation, the NU Board of Regents task force studying student fees Tuesday scheduled an Oct. 5 public hearing to gather UNL's opinion on the issue.

The 10-member committee also set an Oct. 3 hearing for the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and an Oct. 5 hearing for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), according to task force chairman Hans Brisch.

Brisch explained that the public hearings are a part of the task force's attempt to thoroughly examine the fees issue.

At the July 25 regent's meeting, Omaha regent James Moylan ordered a university-wide study of student fees. The 10-member committee, appointed by NU President Ronald Roskens in August, represents students, faculty members and administrators from all three campuses.

Task force member Jim Knisely, UNL comptroller, said the committee was charged by the regents to:

- study student fees with the intent of eliminating all student fees outside of those supporting the university's bond repayment,

- consider which university organizations and services should be funded by mandatory fees,

- consider which student organizations and services should receive voluntary fee support,

- recommend whether mandatory payments should be collected as tuition or as a separate student fee, and

- recommend how far the university should go in providing services to collect voluntary student fees, if they should exist.

Brisch said that before the task force makes student fee recommendations, "we want a good solid study of what is, what should be and how we should go about getting what should be."

The public hearings are a part of this study, according to Brisch.

Brisch said the task force wants to complete their recommendations on the future of student fees in time for the December regents meeting. He said it would be premature to make any predictions on the task force's recommendation because they are still in the research stage.

After the public hearings, the task force will meet again Oct. 18, Knisely said.

UNL's other representatives on the task force include Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Richard Armstrong and student Dennis Martin. Martin will conduct the UNL hearing Oct. 5, Brisch said.

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