

# Leaders' opinions differ on FAB hearing testimony

By Mike Patten

Two UNL leaders had different reactions to the testimony given Wednesday to the NU Board of Regents task force on student fees.

Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, and ASUN President Greg Johnson agreed the hearing was conducted in a professional way, but differed in their opinions about the low number of people testifying against student fees.

"The only lack of fulfillment that I had," Armstrong said, "is that very few people expressed any dissenting views from the dominant view."

Johnson said the lack of dissenting views indicates that students don't want student fees eliminated.

"I expected to get more negative testimony," Johnson said. "But I wasn't disappointed that we didn't get it."

He said he was pleased that apparently few students are opposed to student fees. Fees currently are \$66.50 per semester.

## Satisfied with hearing

"I'm pretty satisfied with the hearing and ASUN's input," he said. "I thought the testimony that I heard was excellent."

"Some groups were more represented than others. I would liked to have seen the average student there."

Armstrong said that while he was disappointed in what he called a lack of negative response, he didn't think there was anything else to do.

He said the hearing was conducted in a democratic manner where everyone had an opportunity to testify, and the task force must assume that no one else had anything negative to say.

"I think we just have to accept what we heard," he said.

## Opposing testimony

Ronald Beer, UNO vice chancellor for student affairs, sat in on the hearing conducted Tuesday at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Beer said testimony at the Medical Center was just the opposite of that at UNL.

"I think you've got to take into consideration the whole history and psychology of the institutions," he said. "At the Medical Center those who are actively involved support the mandatory fees reduction."

Beer said the Medical Center hearings apparently also had a lack of balanced testimony.

"Sure it's always nice to hear from a relatively balanced group," he said. "And I would have hoped that more people would have seen fit to testify."

"But anybody and everybody had an opportunity to express their views."

Beer said there is an apathy among students when it comes time to testify. Twelve people testified at the Medical Center.

"I don't know why that is," he said. "Perhaps there is a whole host of reasons why people didn't come."

## Hearing review

Having completed the university-wide task force public hearings on student fees, the 10-member task force now is considering recommendations and proposals.

The NU Board of Regents is expected to hear the task force's proposals in December.

Hans Brisch, task force chairman said information from the hearings will be compiled by each individual task force committee. Reports will be written and used for discussion in a presentation to the regents.

The regents will review the task force proposals in their consideration of the current student fee structure and in possible student fee changes.

# daily nebraskan

friday, october 7, 1977 vol. 101 no. 22 lincoln, nebraska

# Smith: few answers for mammoth minority problems

By Mary Jo Howe

UNL administrators may say they want to increase minority populations at UNL, but their actions don't back it up, according to Multi-Cultural Affairs Director Jimmie Smith.

Dissatisfaction with the school's academic, social and financial aid programs runs high among minority students and the drop-out rate reflects that, Smith said. Only 150 minority students have graduated from UNL since 1973.

Problems for the minority student are mammoth, and the university seems to be slow to respond, Smith said.

As a result many minority students think the administration is insensitive and views them as second class citizens, Smith said.

The Multi-Cultural Affairs office is designed to help the students overcome that feeling and give them a sense of identity, he said. The office serves low-income whites, blacks, native Americans, Chicanos,

and female athletes not on NCAA scholarships.

## Cultural shock

The biggest problem facing minority students entering the university is cultural shock, Smith said.

Other common complaints are a lack of curriculum attuned to their needs, a lack of ethnic professors to serve as models and counselors, a lack of sufficient financial aid, a lack of social programs and projects, poor faculty-staff-student relationships and few minority students represented on decision-making boards, Smith said.

One factor that would help ease some of the minority students' problems is money, Smith said. Money is needed for cultural programs, counselors, more ethnic courses and hiring ethnic professors, Smith said. But the administration has been reluctant to help out, he said.

UNL loses many "top-flight" minority students before they get to the university,

Smith said. Financial aid packages for low-income students stipulate that the students can't work, he said.

## Bare subsistence level

The result is the students must live at a bare subsistence level, Smith said.

In addition, minority student organizations received a severe moral and financial setback because of this year's student fees cut, Smith said. Cultural programs are important to minority students and these day-to-day setbacks sometimes overwhelm them, Smith said. Problems encountered in the university may even result in perma-

nent psychological scars, he said.

The students think the university is saying, "you are a member of a minority group, therefore you can't make it, Smith said.

But Smith said he believes more and more students are staying in the university, and the Multi-Cultural Affairs office has made some progress in making the administration aware of their needs.

The number of minority students has increased over the last three years, Smith said. The office now serves about 700 students.

# Survey proves Nebraskans think they live 'the good life'

By Marjie Lundstrom

Weary travelers cruising Nebraska Interstate 80 need only open the state road map to see Nebraska's slogan—"The Good Life."

A photo of Gov. J. James Exon brandishing a toothy smile accompanies the slogan.

But are Nebraskans smiling and agreeing they are living "the good life?"

Yes, they are according to the 1977 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. The study results said Nebraskans express greater satisfaction with their lives, communities and neighborhoods than Americans in general.

The finding was one of many following a three-month statewide survey by the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research. The bureau, made up of UNL Sociology

dept. faculty members, supervised the interviewing last spring of about 1800 Nebraskans, according to study consultant David R. Johnson.

Other findings from those surveyed included:

—highest community satisfaction area is Lincoln, where 62 per cent are "very satisfied." Only 38 percent living in Omaha are "very satisfied."

—about one-half living in rural farm areas are "very satisfied."

—least satisfaction is in, intermediate size cities (10,000 to 50,000), Omaha and rural non-farm areas of urban counties.

—Better educated and higher income Nebraskans were more likely to rate their community highly. Older Nebraskans and women also were more satisfied with their communities.

Johnson said the study was aimed to interest the public as well as various state agencies and research organizations.

"Instead of focusing on public opinion like many surveys, we looked at basic issues," he said. "People like to know about themselves, the state and what is going on in the state."

About 60 persons were hired by the Bureau to conduct the survey, Johnson said. About a third of the interviews were done in person and the rest by telephone, he said.

Funds for the \$40,000 project primarily came from state agencies, that wanted to include special questions on the survey, Johnson said. The Bureau also received some money from the University of Nebraska, he said.

Johnson said a similar survey will be conducted over the next several years to compare findings and identify trends.



Mr. Trash made friends with everybody, including the campus police. For more pictures and the story, see page 7.

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