

# Student leaders criticize proposals setting standards for office seekers

By Deb Shanahan

UNL student organization officers say they are dissatisfied with NU Board of Regent's subcommittee requirements for students holding office in student organizations.

The four requirements, which are to be reviewed by regents at their Feb. 18 meeting, would set minimum standards for holding and seeking office at UNL, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Although Dave Roehr, former Union Board president said he favors raising the standards, he does not like all the proposed requirements.

"I'm in favor of raising the standards," he said. "It can only improve the quality of people belonging to the organization."

Roehr said setting a 2.0 minimum cumulative GPA and requiring enrollment in at least two courses or for at least six hours are liberal standards.

"If they can't meet these standards they probably shouldn't be involved anyway," he said.

But Roehr does not like the requirement that a student seeking or holding office has to have completed a minimum of 24 hours credit because this eliminates freshmen.

"Freshmen should have the opportunity to participate if they want to and are qualified," he said. He noted that freshmen have made a valuable contribution to the Student Alumni Board this year.

Mike Gibson, president of the Residence Hall Association (RHA), agreed.

"Last year the president of Harper quit and we found a freshman who was qualified to take the job. He did a great job and was re-elected this year," said Gibson.

Gibson added that it was important to get freshmen involved to carry on what is started.

The requirement for a majority vote rather than a plurality vote also bothered Gibson. He said many residence hall governments would need run-off (primary and general) elections to get a majority.

ASUN President Greg Johnson also is concerned about the majority/plurality issue.

Johnson said the run-off elections that would be necessary in some cases would be costly, a personal hardship on the candidates and probably would lessen student interest.

But he said his main argument is philosophical. "The regents are placing restrictions on student government putting a distance between the students and their government."

Johnson also said there have been no problems in the past, but ASUN has the means of keeping a check on officers and may remove the president through impeachment or recall.

"Students should be solving their own problems," said Johnson. "There would be an outcry if the regents said a faculty member had to be 30 years old or in good standing with the administration to represent the faculty on the Faculty Senate."

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