

Administrators, students divided on Fund B question

By Joe Starita

NU administrators and student organization members are divided on the question of which policy is most effective in accounting for Fund B student fee money.

At issue is whether current policies and guidelines used to direct Fund B spending adequately account for student fees and do not need to be expanded.

An expansion would make all Fund B monies subject to an annual study designed to pinpoint how much student fee

money is spent, and where and why it is spent.

Currently, 95 percent (\$63.08 per full-time student) of all mandatory student fees collected is channeled into Fund B.

The bulk of the fee money stockpiled in Fund B supports the University Health Center and pays for bonds used to construct and maintain the student unions and residence halls.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said he sees no need for an annual

audit of Fund B, but if students want an audit, they should conduct a study on their own.

Supporters of an annual comparative study argue that such a report would be a useful tool to help run Fund B more efficiently.

They add that an expanded study would increase student input and allow students more say in how best to use 95 percent of the money they pay in student fees.

"Why shouldn't there be a comparative study done for Fund B monies?" asked Don Macke, director of NUPIRG (Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group).

"Such a report," Macke said, "would allow students to see exactly how their money is now being spent and would provide possibilities on how that spending could be improved."

"Maybe we are spending the money as efficiently as possible now, but a report would at least allow us the opportunity to prove that."

Macke said the universitywide task force on student fees recommended to NU President Ronald Roskens that an annual audit of Fund B monies be conducted.

"Roskens kept the shell of the report, but gutted the important issues," he said. "Eventually, the regents said 'yes' to eliminating fees for speakers and 'no' to a Fund B audit."

Macke added that ASUN is asking UNL Chancellor Roy Young to set up a task force to study Fund B audit possibilities.

An annual analysis of Fund B monies was recommended to Roskens by the task force, said Hans Brisch, task force chairman.

Brisch said the task force report suggested Fund B dollars be used only for services that benefit a majority of students and that those dollars be subject to the same scrutiny as Fund A money.

"We (the task force) could not justify what would kill a Fund B program or what would make it viable," Brisch said. "That's why we recommended an annual study be made of Fund B."

Brisch said the task force felt it should establish broad guidelines to be used to account for Fund B money, rather than saying, "Yes, we propose a specific audit be done."

He added that a 1973 regents' proposal and the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) recommendations serve as the guidelines UNL uses to account for Fund B money.

"The '73 proposals and FAB already provide a mechanism to do an annual audit of UNL's Fund B money," Brisch said.

"I think you should explore the current policy first to decide whether or not it works."

Asked how students could be certain that their student fee money is getting maximum mileage, Brisch said, "The only way to determine if the money is being used most efficiently is through a study on an annual basis."

Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, said most members of the task force felt an intense study of Fund B

should be made because "that's where the vast majority of student fees go."

Armstrong said the regents' concern rested with Fund A, not Fund B, so the task force concentrated on Fund A.

"I intend to make Fund B more open to student input," Armstrong said, "and am giving serious consideration to doing an intensive study of Fund B money on our own."

Armstrong added that his office is recommending that Fund B dollars be studied sometime within the coming year, not annually.

"The objective of doing a Fund B study," he explained, is to update interest of the UNL community by evaluating the programs and services provided by Fund B money."

Meanwhile, the presidents' office is open to an annual study of Fund B, but that study "is not the function of this office," said President Roskens.

"We function based on guidelines established by the regents in '73 which dictates university policy for Fund B money," Roskens said.

"From our vantage point here," he said, "we see no evidence that the current system has any problems with Fund B money."

Roskens said the task force recommended an annual study of Fund B but his staff did not feel it was important enough to include in the president's report to the regents.

He added that although he sees no need for it at the moment, there would be no objection from the president if a more detailed Fund B study became necessary.

"But that would have to start with the chancellor's office," Roskens said. "Does the chancellor see a perceived need? Do the students have a need? The need doesn't start here."

Currently, there is no need for an annual study of Fund B money, Schwartzkopf said.

"Fund B money is pretty cut and dried," Schwartzkopf said. "It is encumbered in bonded indebtedness and is audited every year with the results available to everyone."

Schwartzkopf said the best thing to do is let current policy go for several years and keep an eye out for warning flags.

"If after three or four years problems come up, then you can say, 'Hey, we better do an annual study to clear this up,'" he said.

Schwartzkopf said options are available now to students concerned with Fund B accountability. He said ASUN could form a committee and work with FAB to find out how to better use student fee money.

By comparing other programs and policies, he said, students can determine how efficiently their fee money is being used here.

"Then they can take the results to Armstrong and he can determine the validity. If the alternatives look better, they can be put into practice."

"But, personally, I don't feel an annual study of Fund B is necessary right now."

Out-of-date bylaws target of ASUN recommendation

ASUN approved a resolution Wednesday night recommending next year's senate call a constitutional convention next fall to update senate bylaws.

Calling the current constitution "inadequate, out-of-date and stifling for a progressive student government," the resolution recommended investigation into several areas, including amending procedures, representation and executive functions.

Jim Vitek, a sophomore business major from Lincoln and member of the task force on student government, announced his intention of filing a petition requiring the new senate to call the constitutional convention by April 5, instead of leaving the convention tentatively scheduled for next fall.

The senate also approved six of the seven members of next year's student court who will take office next fall. Bill Cassel, a junior law student from Ainsworth, was appointed chief justice. Other

appointees include Arts and Sciences juniors Mike Gibson, Cristy McCarty, Lincoln; junior law student Clay Statmore, Lincoln; freshman law student Annette Kovar, Fremont; and Greg Johnson, Baltic, S.D. Statmore was also appointed to fill a vacancy on the current student court.

ASUN also appropriated \$150 for stickers and flyers to encourage students to vote in the upcoming election. The senate ad hoc campaign committee, in conjunction with a student group called Committee for Student Involvement, will distribute the stickers and conduct a telephone campaign to reach between 6,000 and 10,000 off-campus students.

The Government Liaison Committee will also hold a voter registration drive March 29 and 30 in the Nebraska Union and March 31 on East Campus. Students may register from Lancaster County or from their home district.

Delicatessen, student lockers among Union Board projects

The Union Board has divided its pie into four parts to allow for better planning for this year's Nebraska Union Board activities.

Four committees that were established as a result of the Union Board's new bylaws have taken effect this year. The four committees include food service, operations, business finance and recreation. Mark Knobel, Union Board president, said the committee chairmen are looking for more student involvement in the Union Board.

High on the agenda for the food service committee is an experimental delicatessen in the union.

According to Bob Richeson, assistant director of food services, he will examine the costs for the project and will present his findings to the Union Board at a future meeting.

"I'm trying to find out from people what type of foods they would like to see," he said, for example whether students would buy salads in serving portions or pints. Richeson said that sandwiches, such as poor boys probably would be served too.

According to Richeson, the deli probably would be located around the area of the front desk of the union.

"We would hope to have something open by the beginning of the next school year," Richeson said.

The operations committee will be assigning union space to student organizations within the next month, according to Knobel. The committee will continue plans for a \$5,000 commuter locker project for the union. The plan, which has already been accepted by the board, will be for lockers in the vending area in the lower level of the Union. The lockers may be provided as a service or at a minimal charge for students. Knobel said several pinball machines may be taken from the area to make room for the lockers.

The operations committee also will be looking at the possibility of a copy center for the Union.

The business and finance committee will review proposed budgets for all areas of the union's plans and activities other than programming. The program councils members submit their own budget to the board.

The finance and business committee will consider plans for a computer system to speed calculations of monthly union accounting statements.

The East Union checking service will come under review by the finance committee. Knobel said the committee will look at the past problem of the East Union not having enough money to cover check cashing. The recreation committee will work with the program councils.



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