

ERA's extension approval gets varied official reaction

Reaction to the U.S. Senate's approval of the Equal Rights Amendment extension ranged from whole-hearted approval to questions about the possible "amending of the Constitution."

Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis said she thought it was "fine."

"I supported it," she said. Boosalis said that while she did not feel the extension would change her life in any way, "I certainly should change a lot of things for women and men. I think it's important to remember that men will be affected by this, too," she said.

Gov. J. James Exon said that while he supported the ERA, he did not support an extension of the time limit for ratification.

"I think that what has happened is a serious tampering with the Constitution," he said. "I feel that those who did not agree with the ERA have been dealt an unfair blow by the Senate because of the extension of time that was allowed."

Exon said he also thought that the Senate should have allowed states to decide whether they wanted to rescind their vote on the ERA.

"I think the ERA is all right, but . . . I don't feel the extension was right or proper," he said.

Exon's Republican opponent for the U.S. Senate nomination, Don Shasteen could not be reached for comment.

Iowa State . . .

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He said some students might only be able to go to school during the December to February quarter in order not to conflict with farm activities.

"There would be no opportunity for farm-out people to go to school (on a semester system)," he said.

The university has said it might develop special programs for farm-out students, Schuster said. But this would require special instructors, special classes, and special living arrangements for the students if they came and went at different times than the rest of the students.

"It might be somewhat inconvenient (for the farm-out students), but I don't think that many go home (to farm) anymore," Parks said.

Schuster said it will be difficult for persons to graduate on time if they would have to leave school for a semester.

"A semester is almost half a year, and if a class is only offered in the fall semester, you'd have to wait a whole year to take it," he said.

Parks said there should be no problem for students currently enrolled in the quarter system to graduate after the switch-over.

"Switching credits from one system to the other is merely a mathematical process," he said.

Vote taken

Schuster said a vote was taken among students and faculty members before the

decision to switch was made.

The students voted 72 percent not to switch to a semester system, and the faculty voted 60 percent to switch to a semester system.

Parks said the students knew before the vote was taken that the deciding vote would be made by the faculty.

"I think students are inclined to be conservative on this point when it comes to switching."

He said students are afraid they might be hurt from the switch. Every course in the curriculum will be re-evaluated over the next three years in preparation for the switch.

"I think it's good for a university to go through a re-appraisal like this every so often," Parks said.

Schuster cited several reasons for the switch-over.

The other post-secondary schools in Iowa are on a semester system, so it would be simpler to transfer, he said.

Nationally, it is a growing trend to switch to a semester system, he said.

A semester system would take less administrative work because the majority of students would have to register for classes twice a year instead of four times, Schuster said.

In addition, an instructor would be able to put more into a course if he had the 15 weeks of a semester system instead of the 10 weeks of a quarter system, he said.

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