

daily nebraskan

UNL police officials deny promotion fixing charges

By Val Swinton

UNL police administrators denied charges that the appointment process for lieutenant is rigged against lower ranking officers.

Sources within the department said some patrolmen are unhappy because they feel that Director of UNL Police Gale Gade may be maneuvering to insure that sergeants will be appointed to the three positions, rather than patrolmen, regardless of who is better qualified.

Gade emphatically denied the charges. "There's no story here," he said, adding there are a few officers on the force who insist on going to the press with their complaints rather than bringing them to him.

Business manager Ray Coffey said he had investigated charges that the selection process may be rigged.

"I did that because when the word was first put out, I was getting some rumors back."

"The word" that Coffey was referring to was an announcement last fall that the department would be making the three appointments, and all officers could apply.

Coffey said he had heard that "it was already determined who the three would be."

Rumors questioned

He said he interviewed 12 officers be-

fore Christmas, including several of the applicants for the job.

"I concluded from having talked to a number of people, six or eight of them were applicants, that maybe the rumors existed, but they really weren't convinced of it's validity."

The 12 officers who applied for the job, four patrolmen, one corporal and seven sergeants, took an aptitude test in early January. Then, on Feb. 2, Gade sent a letter to the applicants which reportedly angered some of them.

In the letter, Gade said the selection committee, which consists of three persons not in the department, would be given access to only selected portions of the applicants personnel file instead of the entire packet. He said the two captains on the force would evaluate each applicant, and without allowing Gade to see the comments, turn their remarks over to the committee. The third point in Gade's letter was that the selection committee would not have to interview all candidates.

Suspicious

Some officers expressed reservations that because they were not told of the three points in Gade's letter until after the aptitude test had been taken, it may be an attempt to insure that certain applicants will look good in front of the committee.

"I think it would have looked a lot better had they told everybody up front

what the proceedings were going to be," one applicant said. "It leads one to believe that only B-Line positions will get the job."

B-Line positions is a term that classifies the captains and sergeants on the police force. Patrolmen are classified as C-Line positions.

According to Coffey, the rank of lieutenant also falls under the B-Line classification, and when the three new lieutenants are appointed, three sergeants positions will be eliminated.

It has not been determined what will happen to sergeants currently on the force if the committee decides to recommend three patrolmen.

"If all of those promoted come from existing sergeants, then that takes care of it," Coffey said. "If they're not, then this creates a problem."

Appointment shuffle

Coffey said although there are no lieutenants on the force at the present time, there is one B-Line position vacant due to the retirement of an officer last summer. So, he added, one C-Line officer could be appointed without causing a problem.

"How it works out," he said, "will have to wait until we see exactly who the three are."

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Daily Nebraskan photo
Gail Gade, director of University Police

Opposition stalls university collective bargaining bill

By Connie Casari

A bill to revise provisions relating to collective bargaining units for post-secondary educational institutions stalled Thursday in the Legislature.

Introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, LB108 directly affects the three campuses in the NU system, all state colleges and technical community colleges.

The intent of the bill states that collective bargaining units at post-secondary educational institutions be systemwide in scope and co extensive with the jurisdictions of the governing body.

If this bill passes as is, all three campuses in the NU system would bargain together for wishes of their respective campuses. The NU Board of Regents would deal with one group, and not three separate bargaining units.

The bill states faculty and non-faculty employees shall not be included within the same bargaining unit. It also says that persons holding the position of department chairperson or program director shall not be included within the bargaining unit composed of other faculty employees.

No advancement

Neither proponents nor opponents had

enough votes to advance the bill. Senators made repeated motions to kill, amend and advance the bill. The last vote to advance failed by one vote, 24-13, leaving the bill on general file.

Lincoln Sens. Dave Landis and Steve Fowler both voted against the bill. Landis said he objects to the bill because the Legislature would be interfering with the courts.

The bill interferes with a decision on bargaining units at state colleges which is being studied by the state Supreme Court, Landis said. That matter arose from a

Court of Industrial Relations decision on the inclusion of Chadron State College in a bargaining unit with the other three state colleges at Kearney, Peru and Wayne, he said.

Chadron had sought exclusion based on geographic isolation.

Bill interferes

"This bill is harmful because it unjustly interferes with the collective bargaining process," Landis said. "There is already a process to resolve labor-management issues. This (bill) signals a party going outside the process and coming to the Legislature for complete vindication."

Fowler voted against the bill because he was concerned about its impact on the University of Nebraska, he said. The three campuses, the Medical Center, UNO and UNL, all have substantial differences and should be different bargaining units, Fowler said.

Taking the opposite view, saying that all three campuses are like units and they should bargain collectively, was Neligh Sen. John DeCamp.

"The state created the system of collective bargaining," DeCamp said. "I think this is a legitimate method of refining it."

DeCamp said he already had offered in committee an amendment to exempt the university from the bill, but the amendment was not adopted. A similar amendment failed on the floor.

He said he might bring up the amendment again, saying he thought that could be the way to get the bill passed.

The regents are in favor of the bill in its original form, said William Swanson, vice president for government relations.

"The regents feel the mission of the university is the same," Swanson said. "Overall it is one university even though there are three campuses."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Nebraska's seasons will be interpreted in dance this weekend at Kimball Recital Hall. More pictures and story on page 8.

inside friday

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