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ASUN policy committee suggests student research program criteria

In 1978, the All University Fund appropriated about \$3,000 to ASUN for the purpose of initiating a Student Research Grant Program. The program was originally established to encourage independent student research—research resulting from personal initiative rather than academic requirements.

The program's creators considered limiting funding to students who had never participated in a research project, stressing undergraduate research, or weighing the worth of the projects on the number of students who would benefit from them.

The ASUN Academic Policy Committee has considered the originators' intentions and suggested guidelines to aid in the selection process for research grants. Some suggestions are:

- 1) References from sources, outside the Student Research Grant Committee, will be considered on the basis of the abilities of individual students submitting proposals, not on the worthiness of the proposals themselves.
- 2) Grant allocations may be used both to fund entire projects and to supplement funds from other sources.
- 3) There will be emphasis on research projects that are outside normal requirements for classes and degrees.

4) The student researcher must submit a written report to the SRGC at the completion of his/her project.

5) Student research projects to be funded by SRGCs must be completed by April 15, 1980, in order to give the SRGC sufficient time to evaluate and report on the results of the program.

6) The SRGC will meet monthly during the academic year to assess the progress and make an evaluation of each project. Each student researcher must submit to the SRGC a written report in March if the project has not been completed, to include all expenses incurred in the research, all expenses charged to the grant allocation, drafts of the final report, if any, or of any section thereof, and any other information the SRGC may require.

Janice Kluck, ASUN senator and chairman of the Academic Policy Committee, said 45 proposals were received for the grants this fall and a total of \$3,300 was asked for. More than one-fourth of the proposals will be funded, she said.

By Nov. 16, all proposals selected to receive research grant money will have been chosen. Those who submitted proposals will be notified if their proposal was accepted or rejected at that time.

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Use of Pill declines, but not at UNL

By Mary Louise Knapp

Although national statistics and a Lincoln birth-control clinic report a decline in use of birth-control pills in favor of other contraceptive methods, the University Health Center reports that women going to the health center for birth-control aren't following the trend.

Terri Mecham of Planned Parenthood of Lincoln said a decline in Pill use in the city reflects a nationwide trend. Planned Parenthood reported a 5 percent decline in the

number of women who are patients there who chose the Pill over other forms of contraception since 1977.

"Of a total of 3,629 women who visited the clinic in 1977, 78 percent chose birth-control pills. In 1979 we saw 3,387 women, 73 percent of whom chose the pill," Mecham said.

The diaphragm was the second most popular method of birth control preferred by 8 percent of the women who visited Planned Parenthood from 1977 to 79. Five percent chose the IUD.

However, Linda Rijicz, director of nursing at the University Health Center, said that she has not noticed a decline in prescription of birth-control pills at the Health Center.

"Overall buying of the Pill is up," Rijicz said, "but we are not sure of exactly how many students are on the Pill because we have not kept track of them. We have noticed a greater interest in the IUD and the diaphragm, especially during the past year."

The Health Center began prescribing the diaphragm as a contraception method in March 1978 and started offering IUDs in September.

"We are keeping statistics on the number of women who request these methods," Rijicz said.

Since the Health Center made diaphragms and IUDs available, 15 women have requested diaphragms and six or eight asked for IUDs, she said. Before March 1979, the birth-control pill, over-the-counter methods such as condoms and spermicides, and instruction in natural methods such as rhythm, were the only forms of contraception offered by the Health Center.

National declines in Pill use have been attributed to reports during the past 10 years linking the Pill to blood clots, some forms of cancer, gall bladder problems, liver tumors, heart disease, strokes, anemia and numerous minor side effects such as weight gain or loss.

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