

Investigators find no discrimination

A Federal investigation has found no reason to believe that the UNL department of agricultural economics or its faculty discriminated against a graduate student from Ghana in a dispute about a class grade.

The regional director of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, in a letter to UNL Chancellor Roy Young, said academic records and interviews show no probable cause to believe the student was discriminated against and also said the federal investigation is closed.

The finding is part of a two-year controversy that eventually involved the student, the UNL Faculty Senate, NU General Counsel Richard Wood, the agricultural economics faculty, three state senators, and university officials.

Several agreements were made and dissolved between the student and various university officials and state senators. These were settlements in which discrimination charges would be dropped against the professor in exchange for a grade settlement dropping the professor's charges of academic dishonesty against the student, and waivers of degree requirements.

With the latest agreement, the student still must take comprehensive examinations and finish a thesis before receiving a master's degree.

Unless he decides to take legal action, the case is closed, according to Glen Vollmar, agricultural economics department chairman.

The NU Board of Regents has been asked by the Faculty Senate to reaffirm faculty control of grades as a result of the controversy. The matter will be discussed at the board's December meeting.

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