

Informal DN poll indicates sex discrimination declining

By Alice Hrnicek

Classes in fields traditionally open for one sex or the other are opening up and teachers prefer it that way, according to an informal survey of eight UNL instructors.

Although university policy states that admission and privileges cannot be denied because of sex, some fields are dominated by one sex because of social values, according to Mary Jo Deegan, assistant professor of sociology.

But, she added, she encourages males to join her class, Women in Contemporary Society.

"In general males tend to participate more than females because they are socialized to do so," she said. "They seem more outspoken and ask questions."

Two instructors of classes attended primarily by males, however, contend that females work better in class.

H. Dwight Loveday, assistant professor of animal science and extension meats specialist, said that in industry and on his meat judging team, women are preferable.

"Usually gals are the best students," he said. "They don't bother me a bit."

STEPHEN LOWRY, assistant professor of animal science and consultant to the Biometrics and Information Systems Center, said he likes a balance of males and females.

"Since my classes are mostly male, the women who do come into classes are usually more competent. They are the ones who contribute the most."

Other instructors, however, see no difference in the class performance of either sex and believe the course material is appropriate for anyone enrolled.

Most of the material in his class, History of Sport, deals with male athletics, said Benjamin Rader, history professor.

"But this is appropriate for anybody

interested in athletics," he said.

Nearly 10 percent of his students are women, which he said is less than previous semesters.

Helen Sulek, associate professor of human development and the family, said that more men are entering human services because it receives more publicity. However, women still are the majority.

"THE MEN ARE just as interested in the field and work just as hard," she said. "I like a mix in my class."

Home economics is known as a "female profession," according to Constance Kies, professor of food and nutrition.

"There's no reason for it," she said. "It's been sort of a historical practice for men not to sign up."

The only problem she said she can see is that males might feel uncomfortable in a minority.

"They do very well or they don't do well. There's just no difference."

Male students in the class, History of Women, have not reported any uneasiness in being among mostly females, the instructor said.

"Men have written nice notes about things they'd never realized until they

came into the class," said Ann Kleimola, associate professor of history. "I'm not surprised that there are a lot more women than men with that topic. The men may have felt odd at having that many women in the class."

Being outnumbered has not stopped females from displaying leadership in agricultural economics, said Glen Vollmar, professor and chairman of the department. The number of women in the field has increased, he said.

"Gal students have made a good impression and this has helped them," he said.

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