

Faculty Senate resolution:

'NU can't afford two administrative levels'

By Mike Sweeney

The UNL Faculty Senate Tuesday unanimously accepted a resolution arguing that NU cannot afford two levels of administration and asking the NU Board of Regents to consider eliminating some central administration offices.

The resolution asks the regents to "critically examine the need for administrative structure in the NU systems office which duplicates similar structure on each of the campuses."

It particularly questions the need for the vice president for academic affairs, vice president for administration and their staffs.

Meanwhile, faculty members of the College of Business Administration passed a resolution supporting the regents' request for a 15 percent increase in state support for the NU budget. The resolution also requests a special line item for utilities in the NU budget to prevent the erosion of budgets for education.

Senate president William Campbell, an associate professor of physics who helped draft the resolution, said he was surprised by the short debate.

THE RESOLUTION will be sent to the regents within the next few weeks, Campbell said.

He said he expects the board to support the central administration as it has in the past, but said he hoped the resolution at least would prompt the regents to thoroughly examine the administration structure.

"I think it's important for them (the regents) to understand the feelings of the faculty," Campbell said.

The resolution says the university is facing a financial crisis which threatens to seriously damage its academic programs.

One way to ensure support for teaching, research and service programs at the university is to trim the administration budget, according to the resolution.

"The current two-level administration organization at NU is inefficient and cannot be afforded with the present and projected funding relative to the university," it states.

In the limited debate which followed presentation of the resolution, associate professor of classics Thomas Winter said Michigan State University has a multi-campus system similar to NU, but operates efficiently without a central administration.

"THERE IS absolutely nobody at the top of the pyramid, and the state of Michigan saw no need to spend a penny to have someone astride the colossus from the top," Winter said.

He said state funds allocated to the NU central administration "don't teach a single student."

In other actions, the Faculty Senate recommended that only tenured members of the UNL faculty vote on tenure recommendations.

The senate also recommended that anyone considered for tenure and promotion should be informed promptly of decisions made at each level of the evaluation process, and recommended that all faculty members on appointments for a specific term be evaluated thoroughly by their

fifth year and informed of the results.

In addition, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was directed to work with the administration to ensure faculty members do not suffer retaliation for criticizing the administration.

HOWEVER, THE senate balked at allowing the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee to consider complaints of due process violations in tenure decisions. That responsibility remains with the Grievance Committee.

Campbell, who cast the tiebreaking vote, said the

informally-structured Grievance Committee is better able to handle due process complaints than the freedom and tenure committee, where professors require the services of a lawyer.

The College of Business Administration's resolution calling for a 15 percent budget increase joins similar budget resolutions supported by the College of Arts and Sciences and Teachers College faculty.

More than 1,500 student requests for spring semester business classes were denied because of an inadequate budget, according to the resolution.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Go bananas . . .
B-A-N-A-N-A-S

Hello. My name is Go N. Ape, but my friends call me Harry. I'm going bananas worrying about finals. I guess I've just been monkeying around too long. You know, hanging out at The Zoo Bar or at some other swinging place. But it's time to settle down and start using my brain instead of sitting on it. There's just got to be an easier way to make a living.

Plea bargaining study shows possible flaws

By Lucy Bighia

A study of 358 felony cases has revealed apparent inconsistencies in the way Lancaster County authorities strike plea bargains.

The inconsistencies relate to race, sex, past criminal record and who the attorney is.

That's according to an extensive study of Lancaster County plea bargaining: the county attorney's practice of reducing or dismissing criminal charges if the defendant agrees to plead guilty.

A study of felony charges filed in Lancaster County during the first six months of 1978 showed certain defendants received better bargains than others.

The study revealed that:

-Black defendants plea bargained 58 percent of the time, while white defendants bargained 43 percent of the time.

-Men bargained 48 percent of the time, and women bargained 26 percent of the time.

-Convicted felons plea bargained 52 percent of the time, while first offenders bargained 31 percent of the time.

-Public defenders bargained slightly more than private attorneys.

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY Terry Dougherty bargained 62 percent of the time, while Deputy County Attorneys Gary Lacey and Jim Luers bargained 41 percent of the time and 35 percent of the time respectively.

Despite such statistics, plea bargaining is widely supported by Lancaster County attorneys and judges.

According to Dougherty, there is nothing "underhanded or shady about it."

"Nothing goes on in a plea bargain that I wouldn't be more than happy for everyone in the world to find out about," Dougherty said.

Deputy Public Defender Tom Hagel called plea bargaining "simply a matter of hedging your bet."

Depending on the circumstances, most defendants faced with the choice of going to trial on a felony charge or pleading guilty to a misdemeanor would rather take the bargain and plead guilty, Hagel said.

County Judge Jeffrey Chevront said that although

many people think there's something underhanded about the plea bargaining process, it's largely a matter of public record.

BEFORE ACCEPTING the plea, he said, the judge asks the defendant what bargain, if any, has been made. "There couldn't be anything more public," Chevront said.

Some of the inconsistencies discovered by the study surprised many of the attorneys questioned. But they insisted there are easy explanations.

According to Ron Lahners, county attorney for five years, blacks receive more plea bargains because it is harder to convict a black defendant.

"Blacks commit crimes against blacks," Lahners said. "And we have more difficulty in getting cooperation from a black witness where a black defendant is concerned."

Lahners said a black woman, for example, is much less likely to testify in a rape case against a black defendant than a white woman would be.

The other reason blacks get more deals is that, in a predominantly white community like Lincoln, there's an identification problem where black defendants are concerned, he said.

To a white witness, many blacks often look alike, Lahners said.

But Chevront said he thought the difference in plea bargaining stems from the fact that blacks tend to commit crimes of a more serious nature than those committed by whites.

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