

Council looks at new plan

By Bill Graf

A new affirmative action plan has been formulated by the University Affirmative Action Council. But, according to the UNL affirmative action officer, the new plan is basically the same as the one in force at NU since 1974.

Bradley Munn said the new plan includes realistic revisions in light of the university's financial situation.

However, according to Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, some oppose the new plan because they believe it should be more binding on department chairmen and others involved in hiring.

"There are problems with the new plan," Munn said. "Some want the plan to contain a penalty for department chairmen that don't make an effort to comply with the affirmative action plan."

He also said the 1974 plan was a NU system plan, but there is no longer an affirmative action officer overseeing all three NU campuses.

Nationwide affirmative action programs were started

by an executive order of the President of the United States. The order says all federal contractors should make a "goodwill effort" to hire minorities and women.

Munn said the rewrite of the plan was meant to be a "house cleaning," to bring the plan up to date.

He also said the new plan will integrate four separate documents into one.

He added that a draft of the plan will be presented to the NU Board of Regents Saturday. The regents will vote on the plan's adoption in January.

If the new plan is rejected, the old plan will stay in force, Munn said.

The affirmative action plan currently employed contains basically the same goals and time tables as the new plan, he said. However, he said, the old plan is "too wordy and contains too much detail. There are some facets of the old plan that are simply unworkable."

The new plan's strengths are its greater emphasis on training programs and the financial condition of the university, he said.

Seasoned forensics team among UNL's winningest

By Debora Hemminger

The Cornhusker Forensics Team is one of the strongest in the Midwest and has one of the best winning records among campus teams, according to the forensics director.

Jack Kay said the team has won 43 trophies this semester, considerably more than last year. He said experience is a big reason of the success of this year's team.

"Most universities are happy to break even," in the won-loss record, Kay said. The UNL forensics team has a 60.5 percent winning record against other universities.

Anyone that is interested in debate or individual events for the forensics team is invited to participate, he said, whereas most universities demand that the team members have experiences before they compete, Kay said.

Kay said the UNL team considers forensics a learning experience that will help students in the job market.

About 60 students have participated in the program this year.

The Cornhusker Forensics Team won first place at the Creighton University and the Iowa State University sweepstakes. A sweepstakes contest includes all schools competing for total team points. The team won second place in the sweepstakes at a tournament at Kansas State University and third place at a debate at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Kay said the team attends as many tournaments as possible on a limited budget.

Kay said the benefits of participating on the forensic team are interacting with faculty, and gaining the ability to think critically and reach decisions by analyzing evidence.

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