

ASUN executives denounce pay cut

By Kent Warneke

All three ASUN's executives disagree with the Committee on Fees and Allocations recommendation to lower the salaries of the first and second vice presidents of ASUN.

ASUN President Bud Cuca said executive salaries are intended to be incentives for the elected executives to spend as much time as possible in the ASUN office. Lowering the salaries would be counteracting that intention, Cuca said.

Present salaries for executives include \$160 a month for ASUN president and \$140 a month for first and second vice-president. CFA's recommendation to ASUN would leave the president's salary the same and lower the first vice president to \$110 and second vice president to \$95.

ASUN Treasurer Kent Whitacre said the justification behind CFA's salary cuts is that the first vice president does not have the same amount of responsibility as the president and the second vice president's constitutional responsibilities are not as many as the first vice president's.

Both Cuca and Kim Weiland, ASUN second vice president, disagree, however, with CFA's statement that the

second vice president's duties are less than the first vice president.

Same amount

"There is a lot of difference in the constitutional responsibilities, but we do essentially the same amount of work and spend the same amount of time in the ASUN office," Weiland said.

Cuca agreed that the second vice president's role is less constitutionally defined, but that does not mean less time is spent.

"With more constitutional responsibilities, the first vice president may have all his time caught up in fulfilling those responsibilities," Cuca said. "That opens a need for a second vice president to work for communication and rapport with senators."

Hubert Brown, ASUN first vice president, said the money for executive salaries is there for a reason—to keep the executives from having to go out of the ASUN office in order to find supplemental income.

Definite limiting

Students are not going to run for ASUN executive positions for the money alone, but with a lowering of salaries, there might be a definite limiting of the time

spent in the ASUN office, Brown said.

Weiland said there are many talented people who, if elected to an executive position, might find it necessary to find a part-time job in addition to ASUN in order to pay their college expenses.

"The salaries help defray the cost of going to school," Cuca said. "Some people couldn't afford to run for office without getting a certain amount of compensation for the time devoted to that position."

Whitacre said the CFA recommendations for student fee money must go through ASUN, which has the options of approving the recommendations, disapproving or changing parts of it. After ASUN has made its decisions, the recommendations are passed along to Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs. Armstrong then has the same options that ASUN had, upon which he then takes the budget to the NU Board of Regents.

The three ASUN executives said they would not venture a guess as to whether ASUN would approve CFA's recommendations as they stand currently.

"I haven't been able to predict the things the Senate has done previously, so I can't do it now," Brown said. "I just hope that they would not approve the salary cuts—the money as it stands now goes quite a ways."

Drinking bill compromise would set legal age at 20

By Julie Bird

LB221, which is scheduled for another round of debate today, may be amended to raise the legal drinking age to 20 rather than 21, according to Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelly, the bill's sponsor.

Kelly said compromising at the age of 20 was preferable to an amendment that was added before the bill received first-round approval last week. The amendment, introduced by Sens. Peter Hoagland of Omaha and Donald Dworak of Columbus, would allow 19- and 20-year-olds to buy liquor in bars, but would restrict off-sale purchases to 21-year-olds.

"That amendment is designed by the liquor industry to not suit anybody," Kelly said. "It will continue to encourage teenage drinking by enacting an unenforceable law."

Kelly contends that the amendment was added to kill the bill during final reading, citing the number of senators who are strong opponents of LB 221 who voted in favor of the amendment.

Misread motives

Hoagland said, however, that Kelly has misread his and Dworak's motives, and that the measure is not intended to kill the bill. Hoagland said the on-site, off-sale proposal addresses the two reasons given for raising the age to 21.

Kelly said supporters of his bill who voted for the amendment may have had any one of three reasons for supporting the amendment.

One is they may feel the bill had a better chance of passing with the amendment added, he said.

Another, he said, is his colleagues may have felt the amendment represented a compromise.

They also may have felt the public wanted such an addition to the bill, he said, adding that all three premises were wrong.

Hoagland said he does not support a compromise at age 20 because raising the age at all is "basically stupid."

"It's like trying to stop a flash flood with a beaver dam," he said.

Signal policy change

Kelly disagreed, saying that if the age were raised to 20, at least it would be a signal that public policy has changed to attack the teenage drinking problem.

LB221 has been a fight between parents and the liquor industry all along, Kelly said, with the prize being Nebraska youth and the \$35 million they spend annually on alcohol.

"The liquor lobby is a small-knit, well-financed, state-controlled group which has a representative at this Legislature every hour of every day," Kelly said. "Parents do not have a lobby except the elected members (of the Legislature)."

While the liquor industry supported the Dworak-Hoagland amendment, Jim Ryan, lobbyist for the Nebraska Wholesale Beer and Wholesale Liquor organizations, said he does not know how the groups feel about rejecting the amendment in favor of the age 20 compromise.

Disorganized lobby

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh said that is because the liquor lobby is disorganized, and Sen. Dave Newell, a staunch opponent



Photo by Jerry McBride

Sen. Donald Dworak of Columbus introduced an amendment to LB221 Monday that would allow 19-year-olds to drink in bars.

to LB221, agreed.

"I think the lobby is divided. Most of the bars in Lincoln where a lot of 19-year-olds go are probably against an age of 20, but most of the rest of the state should be in favor so they don't have to mess with

the on-sale, off-sale stuff," Newell said, adding he has not been contacted recently by the liquor lobby.

"The liquor lobby hasn't been very strong on this despite Kelly's insistence of such," Newell said.

State ombudsman finds hiring procedures proper

By Gordon Johnson

A report issued Monday by the state ombudsman's office stated that the UNL department of architecture did not do anything improper when it failed to hire G. Richard Dunn for a faculty position.

Dunn said he has two options available to him including taking the issue to court. He declined to comment further.

The report resulted from an investigation by the ombudsman's office into Dunn's charges that he was not hired for a faculty position because his degrees are from NU.

The report stated that while department hiring practices were not consistent with university by-laws, Dunn had not been treated unfairly.

Dunn claimed that he has more experience than Professors Robert Duncan and Robert Stowers, who received

the positions that Dunn applied for, but because of his NU degrees he was passed over.

However, the ombudsman's office found that the university did not reject Dunn's application because of his degrees and that the College of Architecture looks at the entire individual when making a hiring decision.

"The inquiries of this office revealed instead that the primary concern of the chief administrators within the College of Architecture was to insure that the profile of the college included a diversity of backgrounds and professional outlooks," the report stated.

To determine the veracity of Dunn's charges, the ombudsman's office made an attempt to determine whether the individuals who were selected met the minimum requirements for the position, and whether or not giving them the jobs met the advertised criteria.

The report stated that the appointment of Stowers and Duncan over Dunn was not unreasonable.

"This office did not consider that it was within the

proper scope of our function to decide who among the applicants should have been hired or who may have been the best qualified," according to the report.

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