

Chairpeople: Cut would hurt culture center quality

By Rose Fitzpatrick

The proposed budget cut of \$1,600 from the University Program Council Culture Center would hinder the programming of Black, Chicano and Native American students straining to produce quality programs on their present budgets, according to committee chairpeople.

UPC Culture Center president Levetta Chamberlain, said the CFA's proposed cuts would take \$100 from Black Special Events, \$200 from Chicano Awareness Days, \$200 from Native American Culture Week, and \$900 from a women's panel.

Culture Center programs may affect only a small portion of university students, but their impact is far greater than those of other councils, Pat Brown, chairperson of the Black Special Events Committee, said.

The programs are open to the entire university population to show them about other cultures and help them see how minorities live, Brown said.

Budget cut

She said if the committees hadn't been doing what they were supposed to do with the funds, a budget cut might have been justified. However, the committees already have shown they could do quality things with what they have, she said.

Lisa Saucedo, chairperson of the Chicano Special Events Committee, said a lot of people were bitter about

the proposed cuts.

The Chicano Special Events Program already has run out of money for this year, Saucedo said.

Originally, committee members had planned for workshops on land grants, politics, the 1980 census and the Chicano university student's role in the community, but the group didn't get an outside grant and had to drop their plans, she said.

She said CFA proposed the cuts because the special events committees should rely on student organizations such as the Mexican American Student Association (MASA), Council of American Indian Students, and African Peoples Union for financial support.

Out of money

"But MASA is out (of money) too," she said.

Brown said the APU is also struggling for money, having to raise \$1,400 to send black student representatives to a Big Eight Conference meeting.

Kim Otto, chairperson of the Native American Special Events Committee, said the proposed cut would affect the quality of programs and the number of speakers, artists and exhibits.

She said her committee is trying to make people aware of Native Americans. Each speaker had a special topic and awareness won't be all there if they can't get all their speakers.

"Everything we put into the budget had a reason," she said.

People she has talked with who are involved with Native American special events don't think it is fair, she said.

The women's panel facing the proposed fee cut is co-sponsored by UPC-City. The panel was a chance to have representatives from Black, Chicano, and Native American groups all on one program, Chamberlain said.

CFA officials called the women's panel a duplicate program, she said. Instead, it was co-sponsored, she said. Brown said next year's programming looks pretty bleak if the proposed cuts go through.

She said the Black Special Events committee had hoped to make what little they had last an entire year.

Brown said there was a disproportion in the amount of money the Culture Center received anyway because the center is not given funds equal to the other branches of the Union Program Council, UPC-City and UPC-East.

New York bill affects administration of test

By Kevin Field

The provisions of a New York Legislature "truth in testing" bill will not affect the way the UNL College of Law operates, but will cause changes in the administration of the Law School Admissions Test, according to Craig Lawson, UNL assistant professor of law.

Although the bill affects only the state of New York, the Law School Admissions Council, of which the UNL law school is a member, has decided to comply, he said.

The bill, which took effect Jan. 1, requires college testing services to file a copy of their tests and answers with the state department of education and provide a graded answer sheet to any student who requests one.

The LSAC decided to comply with the law outside New York to ensure national uniformity in testing, according to a report from the LSAC.

The law requires a new test to be written every time the exam is given and that answers be published for each one, he said.

The move will increase costs \$125,000 per exam, according to the LSAC.

The LSAC has reduced the number of testings from five to four each year and will no longer provide special individual test dates except in extreme circumstances, Lawson said. The LSAC report said these moves were made to cut costs.

Because each test will be different, the test's validity as an indicator of potential student performance may drop, Lawson said.

However, the LSAT will remain the most reliable single indicator of performance, he said. The UNL College of Law admissions department will continue to look at both grade point averages and LSAT scores when deciding who to admit, he said.

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