

ASUN request to review union plan questioned

By Patti Gallagher

The ASUN Budget and Fees Committee has asked for one week to investigate and comment on the Nebraska Union Board's Five Year Plan, but Board President Maynard Krantz says the timing of the request is questionable.

"It's not like it's been hidden," Krantz said of the plan. "They've (ASUN) come after we've been talking about it for three weeks."

He added that the ASUN request seems to be "an attempt to jump on the band wagon a little late in the ball game."

According to ASUN First Vice President Mark Hirschfeld, the election of new officers to the Budget and Fees Committee and several missed deadlines for the plan's

presentation caused a delay in ASUN reaction to the plan.

The plan, which outlines a five-year gradual renovation of the Nebraska Union, was compiled by the Nebraska Union Planning Committee of the Union Board. Begun last May under the recommendation of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong, the nearly \$2 million plan was presented to the board on March 26.

According to Jim May, a non-voting member of the Budget and Fees Committee, ASUN support of the five year plan would give it more credibility. He said he does not anticipate that the week of investigation will entail picking apart specifics of the plan, but that ASUN would like some time to make an informed recommendation.

According to Krantz, however, one week is not sufficient time to make any decision considering the length of time the plan has been in the making.

"We've been working on it over a year and they want it for one week," Krantz said.

Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Union director, said he feels people may be concerned that further input into the plan will be eliminated if it should be approved at Wednesday night's Union Board meeting. He added that after Vice Chancellor Armstrong receives the plan he still will be open to additional input.

"Because it is a long-range plan, I see that every element of it is subject to subsequent improvement," Swanson said. He added that the last half of the plan is dependent upon completion of the first half.

The Budget and Fees Committee requested that Krantz postpone approval of the plan until after ASUN passed a resolution on it.

Krantz said that whether or not to approve the plan is the decision of the board and that he would not recommend either route Wednesday night.

Hirschfeld said ASUN would respect the board's decision. He added that because the plan has such ramifications for students and their fees, he feels that elected student representatives should have some input.

Swanson agreed that ASUN interest and involvement is probably appropriate because of the plan's large financial impact.

Hirschfeld said Budget and Fee Committee representatives planned to attend the Wednesday meeting to ask for the plan's postponement.

Legal service head wants more work

By Kent Warneke

If you've got a question or problem, come on in. That's the philosophy of the new ASUN Student Legal Services director, Robert Hardt, who said he thinks the student law office should be frequented by many students.

Hardt will start officially in his new position on Monday, April 28 and will maintain regular office hours during the week.

"On the average, in the past, this office has received 200 inquiries a month," Hardt said. "But when you consider 200 out of over 20,000 students, that's not so many."

A native of Omaha, Hardt was graduated from law school in Tulsa, Okla. in May, 1978 and has practiced law in Nebraska since the middle of 1979, most recently in Norfolk.

The desire to live in a larger community and the chance to eventually work for a certified public accountant are two reasons that Hardt had for moving away from Norfolk, but they're not the most important ones.

"The thought of working with students was enjoyable and interesting," Hardt said. "And I've always enjoyed this campus." Hardt attended UNL from 1967 to 1970.

Hardt emphasized that his services are free and encouraged any students with any kind of legal problem or question, to come and talk to him.

The fear of making a "big thing" about what a student might perceive as a small problem is exactly the reason why students should consult him, Hardt said.

"I'll guarantee students that if they don't come in and get some help, that's when the problem won't go away and will become a big thing," Hardt said.

Although Hardt cannot represent students in court, he can act as a referral service.

Hardt said he would help students find the best possible attorney for the situation, comparable to the way doctors specialize in certain fields.

However, Hardt said students can do much to prevent any problem from reaching the court level.

The majority of the cases Hardt has been told about involved ongoing violations of law and ongoing litigation.

Hardt said he hopes ASUN promotes the legal services as much as possible because he believes many students are unaware of his services offered.

"I'm going to treat this position like a private practice and try and deal with students one-on-one," Hardt said. "The doors will always be open; I just hope students take advantage of it."



Photo by Jerry McBride

A flock of sandhill cranes takes off from their resting place on the Platte River in central Nebraska. For more pictures and a story on the sandhill cranes, see page 6.

Group plans petition to KEEP coins

By Pam George

The controversy about a gift of gold Krugerrands, currently worth about \$680,000 has prompted the formation of a new student organization called Krugerrands Enhance Educational Progress.

KEEP, according to one of the organizers, will conduct a petition drive today and Friday to show student gratitude for the donation.

John Kreuscher, former Union Board President, said the petition will be sent to James Coe of Phoenix, who is considering retracting the gift.

"The petition drive would bring to their attention that the campus does appreciate the gift and thank them for it," Kreuscher said.

He said attention given to a few students who protested the South African coins was misinterpreted to be the feeling of the majority of UNL students.

Another KEEP organizer, Mark Knobel, said the issue behind the petition drive is not the origin of the gold coins, but the spirit in which the gift was given to the NU Foundation.

"We need to show the Coes that the majority of students do appreciate their gift," he said.

The negative response to the Krugerrands indicated in the press may harm future donations to every college on the NU campus, Knobel said.

Government not endorsed

"It's very important to UNL that we as students take a

positive stance and graciously accept the donation," he said.

The petition states that signatures do not represent an endorsement nor a condemnation of the South African government, but the persons merely accept the coins "in the spirit given."

Kreuscher said he expects opposers of the Krugerrand gift "will not like the petition."

"APU (African People's Union) brought to campus their concerns, and everyone learned more about the problems in South Africa, which is good," he said. "But I also know there are great financial problems in this university."

Organization status requested

Kreuscher said that since the opinions of APU and other protestors were respected, he believes supporters of the gift also will be respected.

Organizing in less than two days, KEEP has filed a letter of intent with Campus Activities and Programs to become a student organization. This is required before the group can use Nebraska Union booths.

During the two-day drive, signatures will be sought at student organization meetings, Greek houses and residence halls, Lyle George, another organizer, said.

KEEP members hope to obtain several thousand signatures in that time, Kreuscher said. After the drive, the petition will be sent to the Coes and possibly presented at the NU Board of Regents April 19 meeting.

Kreuscher said about 60 volunteers are needed to work booths in city and east campus unions.

Regents to review new religion policy

A new policy governing religious speakers on NU campuses will be presented to the Board of Regents Saturday, NU lawyer Richard Wood said.

The new policy is designed to "maximize freedom of speech" at NU, he said.

Current policy prohibits religious worship or testimony on the NU campuses.

The new policy would prohibit religious services on campus and defines religious services as religious ritual, practice or ceremony.

One reason for the change, Wood said, was the controversy that arose after Josh McDowell spoke at UNL earlier this semester.

He added that the proposed policy would allow speakers like McDowell.

A rally was planned for this Saturday to protest the current policy. However according to Lynn Rogers, president of the UN-L Navigators, the rally has been called off because the proposed policy goes along with the changes that the protesters wanted to see, he said.

Wood said that the policy change is on the agenda of the Academic Affairs subcommittee's Saturday morning meeting. It is also on the agenda of the Saturday afternoon meeting of the Board of Regents, he said.