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## Language students oppose rotating Czech schedule

By Pat Carraher

Continued opposition is being raised regarding the decision to cut Czech language offerings at UNL.

The Department of Modern Languages recently decided to offer Czech on a two year rotation in order to reduce expenses and meet its budget. However, students currently taking Czech have said this decision will place many restrictions on them, and will not allow an interest in Czech to grow.

"Czech won't be offered in the bulletin," one student said, "and if it's not in the bulletin every year, then the interest won't grow."

One of the student's concerns is how this decision will affect the class schedule flexibility. They said a student who comes to UNL on the "wrong" year will have to wait until his or her sophomore year to start Czech. They said they believe this interrupts a student's scheduling too much.

### Hard decision

Mark Cory, vice chairman of the UNL Department of Modern Languages said he realized the decision might interfere with some schedules. "I guess it's just going to take more careful planning," Cory said.

He also said department personnel knew that this was a hard decision.

"We don't feel at all like we're against the students. In fact, we're pleased by student interest in Czech. But you have to realize, we operate within very real fiscal restraints. We think that this way, we're able to combine as many people as possible," he said.

The students said they hoped they wouldn't have to put up with the system

next year, and are able to work Czech into their schedules with no problems. But what seemed to be most important to them, was keeping the same teacher.

Vera Stromsikova is the current Czech teacher at UNL. She is a native speaker who came to the United States three years ago.

The students said that if the Czech program is reduced, Stromsikova may have to look elsewhere for employment. One student even went so far as to say that she wouldn't even continue Czech if the same teacher wasn't brought back for next year.

### Native teacher


"You just wouldn't believe how valuable it is to have a native teacher. With a native speaker, you can pick it up so much easier," one student said.

The students all seemed to agree that with the high percentage of Czechs in Nebraska, and the very high quality of the instructor at UNL, the best Czech program in the country could be UNL's, if given a chance.


One student said that people with a knowledge of a Slavic language, such as Czech, are in demand in the East.

Cory said it is possible the language will return to its normal rotation in a few years.


"Enrollment was up this year, and if we get enough students who come in and ask about it, or if we have students wanting to take the course, and aren't able to get in, then we might have to go back," he said. "An increase during one semester just isn't enough. We should be able to tell in about three years whether or not the increase in interest is really a trend."





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