

Professors say big classes may limit enrollments

By Reid Warren

Sexual morality, the origins of life, suicide, marriage and communism are available to any UNL student. But students will have to act fast next semester or they may miss out.

Sexual morality is not going out of style, but the UNL Philosophy Department is facing a maximum number of students with a minimum number of faculty members. "Things don't look very optimistic," Department Chairman Nelson Potter said.

"We've reached the point where we can't really add any more students," Potter said.

Potter estimated that since 1973 the department has increased its output (based on the number of credit hours produced) by 55 percent.

"It's very seldom that we've had to cut off enrollment," he said. "But we're going to have to stop that."

A few years ago, he said, an average class of 50 stud-

ents was in a discussion class. Now, the average is 100 students and frequently more.

Increasing enrollment creates problems when a department can't receive funds for additional staff, Potter said.

Less personal contact

It means less personal interaction between student and teacher, less discussion, and fewer papers assigned because of the increased amount of paperwork created by large classes. In one class, Potter has 300 students.

"It's difficult to do as good a job teaching a large class with a smaller amount of time," he said.

"We'll have to compromise more than we should," Associate Professor Philip Hugly agreed.

"We've already gone past a reasonable limit," Hugly said.

Hugly said a lack of teaching assistants means philosophy discussion groups are larger than they should be to have effective discussions.

Philosophy 110, a logic class that Hugly frequently teaches, used to have two lectures and one discussion class per week.

Now, Philosophy 110 has no discussion. The reason is the larger classes with no teaching assistants for them, Hugly said.

"The real change is in the contact with the students," he said. "The students are losing the opportunity to open up in discussion."

"I think it's a big loss."

Night classes take resources

An agreement between the Philosophy Department and the University Extension Service, which organizes night classes, also contributes to the problem, Hugly said.

According to Hugly, a staff member was hired 10 years ago to be paid by the extension service and the College of Arts and Sciences to teach at both levels.

Since then, Hugly said, the College of Arts and Sciences has never assumed full-time payment of the staff member, so the philosophy staff still has to split teaching time with the extension service.

As a result, Hugly said, his department must teach six extension courses a year, when it already has more than it can handle with a normal day schedule.

Hugly said he feels the College of Arts and Sciences should accept full-time payment of the staff member.

"I realize they're on a tight budget," Hugly said, "but it's a relatively small amount of money."

"We're not talking about \$50,000, we're talking about \$6,000."

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Residence hall rates to go up

By Ken Merlin

University Housing Office Director Doug Zatechka confirmed plans for a rate increase next year, which will be announced at a Residence Hall Association meeting tonight at 7 in the Nebraska Union.

The main reason for the increase is the rising cost of steam heat for the residence halls—a 45 percent increase in January because of the jump in the price of natural gas.

In addition, food prices are expected to rise 12.5 percent to 15 percent next year, along with a 12.5 percent increase in salaries and benefits for university employees.

Zatechka said his office is taking action to reduce the cost to residents by keeping housing rates 2 percent to 4 percent below the inflation rate, by holding operating costs within 1 percent of the budget and by keeping the residence halls full.

"We've been successful in meeting our goals by opening the semester with 103 to 104 percent occupancy and assigning students to triple rooms," he said.

Zatechka said the triple-room policy has caused some controversy, but research at another university shows students got along well with a third roommate.

The residence hall occupancy rate improves as off-campus living expenses go up, he said.

"The cost of room and board in the residence halls is well below what the average student can find off campus," Zatechka said.

But higher heat bills are forcing the housing office to seek ways to reduce the budget in other areas and find alternate sources of financing not in the operating budget.

"We've earmarked things we felt could be reduced or limited without agitating residents," he said.

"Some students won't notice anything has changed."



Photo by Mark Billingsley

The lowering of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance Wednesday in Lincoln herald the long-awaited freedom of the American hostages. A group of public officials and a few hundred spectators gathered for the event. From left to right: Lt. Gov. Roland Luedtke acting on behalf of Gov. Charles Thone, who is in Washington, D.C., State Sen. George Fenger, State Treasurer Frank Marsh and Paul Needham, father of freed hostage Paul Needham of Bellevue.

ASUN votes against polling in Greek houses

By Mary Louise Knapp

Rules for the March 4 ASUN election were approved by the senate Wednesday night, with several amendments.

A motion to delete Greek houses from the list of available polling places passed by a vote of 19-6. In the 1980 elections, three fraternity or sorority houses close to 16th and R Streets were designated by ASUN as polling places.

Several ASUN senators said the voter turnout at the Greek houses had been too low last year to use them as polling places again.

An amendment that would have required executive candidates to pay a \$10 filing fee was deleted from the rules.

Sen. Rinaldo Lovato said the amendment encouraged "economic discrimination" and should be removed.

Sen. Teresa Zeilinger spoke in favor of the amendment, saying executive candidates should pay the fee because they are paid a salary for their ASUN duties.

Sen. John Heineman, who also favored the amendment, said that it would deter joke parties and candidates.

An amendment permitting future parties to use the names of previous parties was passed by a vote of 15-5-3.

The election rules had stated that no party name used in the past four elections could be used again. According to the amendment, party members must obtain written consent from 50 percent of the party candidates from the previous year to use that party name again.

The filing deadline for all offices is Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

Candidates who wish to run for any office may pick up a form beginning Feb. 8 in the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union.

Executive, senatorial and CFA (Committee for Fees Allocation) candidates may also pick up filing forms in the Dean of Agriculture's office. College advisory board candidates may pick up filing forms in the ASUN office or their respective college dean's office.

The filing deadline for student parties is Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. also. A student party must file a Party Statement of Intent.

Financial forms from all official candidates and/or parties must be turned in by

March 4 at 4 p.m.

For write-in candidates to be eligible for office, they must file a financial form with the ASUN secretary by March 5 at 4 p.m.

The filing deadline for all proposed amendments and referendums to the ASUN constitution is Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

All forms, rules and information may be obtained in the ASUN office beginning Feb. 8 at noon.

In other business, ASUN passed a resolution opposing the implementation of laboratory fees as described by a committee appointed by the Board of Regents.

Dan Wedekind, one of those submitting the resolution, said that the committee had not given ASUN enough information about its findings.

The Task Force on Laboratory Fees, as the committee is called, recently developed three models for implementing lab fees.

Interim Chancellor Robert Rutford had requested ASUN's response to them. Wedekind said that until several unanswered questions of concern to students were answered by the task force, ASUN could not formulate a complete written response

for Rutford.

The task force suggested three methods of determining lab fees. One of these would charge one standard lab fee to all undergraduate students; the second would charge a standard lab fee to any student taking a laboratory course, and the third would establish specific lab fees for each course on the basis of the cost of lab materials.

Friday thursday

Beating the Odds: UNL graduate student Roger Mastalir has become one of the few musicians ever to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. . . . Page 6
'Strait' From the Heart: With the song-writing strength of Mark Knopfler, Dire Straits releases one of the year's best albums. . . . Page 8
Looking Up: Coach Ray Huppert says things look better this semester for the women's swimming team. . . . Page 10