New ID cards mean fewer problems—officials

By D. Eric Kircher

Students at UNL may never again experience the joy of scraping off the old paper sticker on their plastic ID card and sticking on the new registration information.

The UNL administration is studying ways to junk the raised letter permanent cards and the every-semester ritual of pasting new information on its back.

The administration asked ASUN senators Dan Renn and Mike Abramson to survey student opinion about using this plastic temporary cards. The cards are similar to those used by students at UNO last semester.

Student Accounts Director Robert Clark said labor inefficiencies are forcing the change. The current cards waste the office personnels' time, and also takes more time to print and place in envelopes, he said.

The proposed card also could be duplicated faster for Clark said, even though students would receive a new card each semester. Information now attached to the back of the permanent card would be printed on the new card's

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High costs Clark couldn't estimate the cost of the present ID cards, but he said administration costs and the cost of getting the embossed cards to students are high.

The thin card, which may cost between 10 and 15 cents, could save UNL about \$3,500 a year, he said. That figure includes material and printing cost differences, he said, but not potential savings which could result from a system that requires less staff time to administer.

The proposed cared also could be duplicated faster for students who lose their cards, Clark said. While students now receive duplicate embossed cards in two or three weeks, he said, the thin card possibly could be printed for students while they waited.

"It may well cost the same for a duplicate thin card," Clark said, "but that cost hasn't been discussed."

UNL charges \$5 to replace a lost card. UNO charges \$1 to replace a UNO student ID.

Positive response

Clark said the NU Board of Regents has the responsibility for setting the charge for replacing duplicate

"I don't think it's fair to charge \$5." ASUN President Renee Wessels said. "I don't have any problems with them (the proposed cards)."

"We're just going back to the students and seeing how they feel on this particular idea," Renn said. "So far, initial response has been very good. Students liked the size and would like to receive a new card each semester." he

Sue Foley, the student government secretary at UNO, said the thin cards are durable.

Renn and Abramson received the cards last Wednesday and have shown them to some student groups to get their reactions. Renn plans to show them to the newly elected ASUN senators at the Wednesday meeting.

On April 1 Renn and Abramson will tell Richard Armstrong, student affairs vice chancellor, about the students' reaction to the proposed card.

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The administration earlier had asked for students' opinion on a stiff paper or cardboard card, and the students felt they wanted a more permanent card, Renn

"This card does not really identify students," Clark said. It's just a registration card, and it doesn't have student information on it, he said. Officials earlier proposed IDS with photographs to positively identify the card's

Renn said businesses which accept the embossed card for identification also would accept the proposed thinner card.



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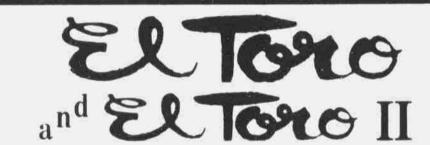
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