

# Upset students can appeal grades to various committees

By Joe Kreizinger

Students dissatisfied with their grades in any UNL class can appeal them through the departmental or college grade appeals committees, said Allan Dittmer, UNL ombudsman.

Dittmer said a discontented student should first arrange an appointment with the individual instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at that level, the student should then talk with the department chairperson, he said.

"The department chairperson will try to mediate a negotiation between student and professor," Dittmer said. "An actual appeal can often be avoided by this meeting."

According to Dittmer, if the controversy is still unresolved after this step, the complaint must be put in writing and presented to the department head. The department must then assemble its grade appeals committee.

"Most of the larger departments already have standing committees," Dittmer said. "If the department doesn't already have one, one must be assembled."

Departmental and college appeals committees must include student representatives, Dittmer said. This policy is outlined in the bylaws of the NU Board of Regents, he said.

Dittmer also said the number of representatives on the departmental committees vary by department. In the English Department, for example, the grade appeals committee has six members - three students and three faculty members. In the College of Architecture, the committee has five members.

### Appeal early

Dittmer said it is important for students to appeal a questioned grade as early as possible.

"The earlier a question is raised, the better chance of getting the problem resolved," Dittmer said. "Sometimes, the actual grade questioned does not arise until late in the year. A student should then immediat-

ely surface the appeal and not wait."

If the departmental committee rules in favor of the student, the grade can be raised or the student may be allowed to take a reexamination or resubmit paper if that was the grade in question, he said.

Dittmer said that if the student is still dissatisfied after the departmental committee's decision, an appeal should be made to the committee of the college involved. The college must then convene its appeals committee to review the case.

According to Tom Shores, appeals chairperson of the College of Arts and Sciences, few cases reach the college grade appeals committee. He estimated that three or four cases per year are reviewed at that level.

### Last resort

"We can't accept a case until it goes through all the steps preceding the college appeals committee," Shores said. "We sometimes must refer a student back to the department or sometimes to the instructor involved."

Shores said college grade appeals committees are used only when all other remedies have been exhausted.

The College of Arts and Sciences grade appeals committee has six members, he said. They are: two undergraduate students, one graduate student and three faculty members.

Shores said the committee may meet as many as four times before making a decision. Testimony is sometimes taken from other students in the class, along with statements from the professor and student. The student and faculty member attend only the initial committee meeting, he added.

A student or faculty member can contest the final decision of the college grade appeals committee directly to the dean of the college involved, but this is rarely done, Shores said.

"By the time the decision is made at the college level, the problem has usually been resolved," he added. "For the most part, those involved are generally satisfied."



Photo by Jerry McBride

Because pheasant season opened this weekend, life will be difficult for this ring-necked pheasant during the next three months.

## Pheasants in danger longer

Pheasant hunters will have the chance to hunt 15 days longer this season because pheasant season has been extended.

Ken Johnson, chief of the Wildlife Division of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, said the change was made so the pheasant and quail season will run concurrently.

Johnson said the longer season would not affect the pheasant population.

"The harvest won't remove so many birds that it will influence next year's population," Johnson said.

Johnson said the season, which started Saturday, will run through Jan. 31.

The daily limit a hunter can take is three. The possession limit, the number of birds a hunter may have in his possession at one time, is nine.

Johnson said about 150,000 hunting licenses are issued per year.

Of those, about 18,000 to 20,000 are issued to hunters from outside of Nebraska. Most of the out-of-state hunters come from neighboring states, but some come from as far south as Texas and Oklahoma, he said.

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