

SSA names lobbying priorities

By Eric Peterson

Increasing costs of education, low faculty salaries and financial aid will be the major lobbying priorities of the State Student Association, said Deb Chapelle, chair of the SSA's legislative assembly.

"We're emphasizing the idea of higher education as an investment in Nebraska's future," she said.

Chapelle said a voter registration drive to be undertaken with ASUN's Government Liaison Committee is the SSA's major non-lobbying project this year.

UNL, Peru State College and UNO are currently committed to the newly formed SSA, a statewide student lobbying group, said Nette Nelson, GLC chair and member of the SSA's board of directors.

Wayne State College students will vote on joining the SSA in early February, Nelson said. The Wayne State student senate approved joining the SSA and set up the election after ASUN senate President Rick Mockler and GLC members Nelson, Chapelle and Meri Blaylock went to Wayne Jan. 8 to talk about the SSA, Nelson said.

Students at Kearney State are expected to vote on SSA membership in March, Nelson said. She said an SSA delegation will go to Kearney Jan. 28 to meet

with administrators and students there.

"We have a core committee working there to consider how to get the information on the SSA out to the student body," Nelson said.

An SSA legislative assembly meeting scheduled for Jan. 16 was cancelled because bad weather prevented Peru State representatives from getting to Lincoln, Nelson said.

The purpose of the assembly was to plan a mass lobby day at the Nebraska Capitol, tentatively scheduled for March 14 or 15, and organize the SSA-GLC voter registration drive.

Chapelle said the legislative assembly will set another meeting as soon as possible.

"It's very hard to get a foothold. We have the organization we need, we have the structure, but we need specific strategies to get going. And that's what the meeting was supposed to be for," she said.

Chapelle said preparations for the voter registration drive are going well.

"Basically, we're going to get some people working on the legal technicalities of registering voters. We will start out with as much information as possible," she said.

The drive will begin around March, Nelson said.

Housing increase...

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The policy would allow all students, even minors, to drink alcohol in their residence hall rooms. Drinking would not be allowed in public areas such as lounges or halls. Students who drank so much that they disturbed others on their floors would be penalized. But they could also be referred to counseling centers for alcohol abuse treatment.

Some RHA members said the new policy would violate state law, since it would allow minors to drink.

Flack said minors drink in the halls now anyway, and the new policy could help prevent them from abusing alcohol.

RHA tabled discussion of the new policy until its next meeting.

Members also voted to support the NU Board of Regents stand that 16th and 17th streets be closed to through traffic by 1986.

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Native Americans schedule meeting

The UNL chapter of the Nebraska Native American Student Congress is sponsoring the group's second quarterly meeting at the East Union Friday and Saturday.

The NNASC, a group of high school and college students, operates on the theme of youth helping youth. According to Jim Ashley, president of the chapter, NNASC is a youth organization designed to help the Native American youth of the state.

"Through us, we hope that students can realize and achieve their educational and vocational goals," Ashley said.

Carol Mitchell, treasurer, said, "A lot of high school students don't know who to turn to for support." The NNASC encourages youth to help youth, and tries to make available workshops and sources of information about career fields in response to student needs. The group also enables Native American high school students to visit post-secondary institutions across the state.

The NNASC is sponsored by the Indian Commission. But according to Jana Ashley, research analyst and technical adviser of the NNASC, the group wants to become

independent in the future.

Ashley said the quarterly meeting is set up by the students, her assistants and Lloyd Ware, a counselor at the Multi-Cultural Affairs offices. The meeting will feature Gerald Gibb, president of Haskell Indian Junior College as speaker and three workshops.

"The goal-setting workshop and the fund-raising workshop are set up mainly for the high school students and the third workshop, proposal writing, is set up for the post-secondary students, Ashley said.

The NNASC has 12 chapters in Nebraska, nine of which are high school chapters. The three post-secondary chapters are at UNL, UNO and Chadron.

Interested people can call 471-2757 for more information.

Workshop emphasizes insurance of activities

Student organizations must be officially registered to receive liability insurance, UNL officials said at a Thursday workshop.

The workshop, titled "Liability, Insurance, and Student Responsibilities in Organizational Activities," was sponsored by the office of Campus Activities and Programs.

Ennio Quevedo, activities coordinator of the CAP office, introduced the panel composed of Roy Loudon, personnel and risk management; David DeCoster, dean of students; and John Wiltse, assistant general counsel. The panel answered questions from students and advisers of UNL organizations.

Loudon pointed out that the university's liability insurance is not accident insurance. The insurance policy covers activities that occur on UNL premises, and negligent acts of organizations.

"The point we want to get across is that the policy is liability insurance, not accident insurance. There must be negligence or a tort," Loudon said.

Wiltse said torts are civil wrongs punishable as a crime.

Loudon said that to be covered by liability insurance, "an organization must be a recognized registered organization." He said all activities of organizations must be registered also.

Wiltse emphasized the point, saying "If they are not registered, there will be no coverage."

Loudon said the liability policy does not cover fraternity or sorority houses. Wiltse said "you can almost divorce the university of responsibility for what happens in Greek houses." Eiltse said there are some houses on university property but most are not, thus the policy.

DeCoster said routine liability affairs usually do not involve the dean of students. "But 95 percent of activities that do are alcohol related," he said.

Quevedo summed up the workshop by saying that for organizations to "stay out of trouble," they should "exercise common sense and register their events."

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