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ASUN president's salary depends on chancellor

By Bill Allen

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said Monday that the Committee for Fees Allocations has not yet discussed its decision to let him decide the fate of the ASUN student president's salary.

Massengale said he would have to wait for a recommendation from Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, before he can comment on the issue.

"I am not familiar enough with the issue to comment at this time," Massengale said.

Rick Mockler, ASUN president, said he plans to appeal CFA's decision leaving Massengale to decide

whether the student president should receive a salary.

The CFA decided Thursday night that since the senate president is also a regent he cannot receive a salary.

NU Board of Regents policy states that no regent shall receive a salary.

"I think the rationale behind the decision was that they felt that the two positions were the same. However, I feel they are distinct," Mockler said.

Mockler said this will form the basis of his appeal. As a regent he can't receive student fees, but as student body president he feels he should be able to.

The CFA has left the decision of whether the president should receive a salary and suggested the salary money come from the contingency fund of student fees.

Jim Frohman, CFA chairman, said the committee was not surprised at Mockler's decision to appeal, and as a matter of fact, expected it.

As for Mockler's rationale that the president and regent jobs entail distinct duties, Frohman said, "He may be right and he may not. The thing here is the regents have said that the president cannot be paid out of student fees and we're kind of bound by that."

According to Frohman the decision whether to increase the student attorney's salary has not yet been reached.

"In effect what we did is postpone the decision until our ASUN subcommittee can check into more details on the legal service," Frohman said.

Attorney calls budget request 'rock bottom'

By Betsy Miller

It's tough to make a living if you're the Student Legal Services attorney at UNL.

"It's pretty difficult to operate on this kind of money," said Shelley Stall, UNL's legal services attorney.

Stall said the entire budget for her office is \$18,147. This includes her \$14,000 salary.

An average salary for legal service attorneys in the Midwest is \$20,320, Stall said.

The Committee for Fees Allocation recently sent its recommended allocation of \$50,419 for the ASUN Senate to Chancellor Martin Massengale for approval. The Senate had requested \$58,982. Stall said the legal services fee is included in the ASUN allocation.

This year, Stall's total budget request of \$24,938, may not be met because ASUN President Rick Mockler was unsuccessful in an attempt to raise her salary from \$14,000 to \$19,000 a year.

"I submitted what I considered a rock bottom figure," Stall said about her budget request.

Stall said the legal services office handled about 100 student cases last semester and is off to a busy start this semester.

However, Stall's work load may be lightened because a university legal fraternity has offered to conduct free legal research for her office.

Sigma Nu Phi, composed of 64 NU law students, will research some cases, Chuck Sinclair, co-coordinator of the project, said.

"We'll be donating about five hours a week to this," he said.

Sinclair said the idea of helping the legal services office came up in January. He said 99 percent of the fraternity members contacted about the project have indicated they will help.

Stall said the contribution by Sigma Nu Phi members will leave her with more time for other office duties.

Stall, 29, is a 1978 graduate of the NU Law College. She worked in a North Platte public defender's office for two years before coming to UNL.

Stall, who started work Jan. 12, said the legal services office is definitely serving a useful purpose, but the university may have trouble retaining attorneys because of the low pay.

The future of a legal services office at UNL could be dark if the pay isn't upgraded, she said.

"I'm not saying that I would quit, but it's hard to think about staying here too long," Stall said.



Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Sen. Howard Peterson of Grand Island testifies at a public hearing on LB607, a bill he introduced that would allow Christian schools to be exempt from teacher certification requirements.

Christian school debate continues

By Alice Hrnicek

Christian schools representatives Monday said they could, in conscience, abide only by a law that would make their schools exempt from accreditation and teacher certification without any state interference.

Of three Christian school bills proposed, only one — LB607 — would meet that standard and has been endorsed by the governor.

LB607 introduced by Sen. Howard Peterson of Grand Island, would allow the waiver of education requirements at the request of the non-public school, if the school's officials say the requirements interfere with their teaching.

LB472A, introduced by Sen. Peter Hoagland of Omaha, provides for an exemption from teacher certification if the parents sign an affidavit stating they recognize what their children are being taught.

Sen. Gerald Koch of Ralston said the bill, introduced at the end of last year's session, would be combined in some way with the others under the committee's suggestions.

The Christian schools issue was intensified last fall when the Faith Baptist Church School in Louisville was closed for not having certified teachers.

Objections to LB652, a proposal by the education committee which permits the waiver of certain requirements, were based on provisions that the church has been established in Nebraska for at least 10 years and that it is a "recognized church."

Testifying in favor of LB607, David Lostroh of Columbus, the father of three children enrolled in a Christian school in Columbus, said that parents have the right to educate their children.

"State controlled education is a definite sign of a totalitarian government," Lostroh said.

Lostroh said the state has sometimes failed in providing

a good education by having no standardized "quality control" system of testing children each year. Christians educate their children, not because the states requires it but because God does, he said.

"If a bill recognizing my responsibilities to God is not passed, then I must continue to follow my ruler," Lostroh said.

Rev. Larry Lautaret of the First Christian Church in Kearney said LB607 offers the "only constitutional solution" to the issue.

The Nebraska Constitution provides that the state should "secure rights" for all. State regulation of non-public schools undermines those rights, Lautaret said.

But Justin King, executive director of the Nebraska State School Boards Association, said teacher certification requirements do not interfere with religious beliefs.

"Where we are dealing with education and the lives of children, we have an obligation (to provide certified instructors)," King said.

"We believe there is an obligation to ensure the education to deal with the problems of the future which you can't understand at this time."

King said he was concerned about LB652 because it does not define "recognized church," one provision for a church to request exemption.

If the bill was to become law, he said it should provide for an annual waiver reapplication.

Anne Campbell, commissioner of education, said she favors current laws which are "minimal and reasonable."

"I do not know of one state that has complete 'hands off' of schools," Campbell said.

Although the state mandates fields of knowledge to be included in a curriculum, she said, it does not set a specific curriculum. Campbell questioned who would monitor Christian schools if certification requirements were removed.

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