

New journalism professor sought

By Brad Gifford

Solving one problem can cause another, as the UNL School of Journalism can attest.

After last semester's budget meetings, the school received permission to form a new faculty position to help meet the demands of a rapidly increasing enrollment, but the post has not been filled, acting dean Wilma Crumley said.

Crumley, who is also the chairperson of the search committee, said time constraints prohibited the school from finding anyone for this semester, but added that the committee is now having difficulty dealing with a very tight job market. The search has been extended, she said, meaning that the committee is re-examining previous applications while accepting even more.

The qualifications that the school is requiring of all candidates are also adding to the problem, Crumley said.

Someone with a professional background in one of the three journalism departments — news-editorial, advertising or broadcasting — and who has or is nearing completion of a doctorate degree is being sought by Crumley. She is also scanning for versatility — someone who can

function both in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

When such a person actually will be in a UNL classroom, Crumley does not know.

"We're trying for January, but if not then we would aim for next fall," she said.

"We're very much trying for January, though," she said.

Twelve adjunct professors, who are teaching one class each, were hired this semester to take up some of the slack, Crumley said. These professors are media professionals, including Don Pieper and Lowell Erickson of the Lincoln Journal and Nancy Hicks of The Lincoln Star.

The salaries of these instructors are coming from a pool of the money that would have been given to the occupant of the new position and from a portion of the salary of former Journalism School Dean R. Neale Copple, who is serving as acting vice chancellor of academic affairs.

The number of adjunct professors does not mean that the 12 classes would have been taught by the person who would have assumed the new job, Crumley said. Rather, she said that it shows how desperately the college needs an increased faculty.

With UNL facing Gov. Charles Thone's

anticipated budget reductions, Crumley said that it is doubtful if more teachers can be hired, however.

The need is obvious, though, she said, when one examines the statistics.

"Over the summer, we (the Journalism School) had a 25 percent increase in student enrollment and a 19 percent increase in credit-hour production," Crumley said.

She then compared UNL's journalism faculty to other conference schools.

"If you check other Big Eight schools, their staffs are considerably bigger. Missouri and Iowa State are dealing with the same number of or less students with a larger faculty," Crumley said.

The search committee even has asked other universities for a helpful referral in trying to fill the vacancy, she said.

"The tightness of the market is nationwide," Crumley said, "because we've contacted other schools, and they have answered by asking us if we can help them fill one or two positions."

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Chambers: System is hypocritical

The Legislature is controlled by special interests, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said Monday. He spoke to a group of about 50 criminal justice students at the Rostrum in the Nebraska Union.

Chambers said that he is in the system but not of the system. Many issues would not be brought to the floor of the Legislature without him, he said.

"I say what needs to be said in the Legislature. I'll tell them that they're ignoramuses. They can vote down every one of my bills but I'll just outlive them," he said.

The criminal justice system is a double system of justice that favors those with money and connection, Chambers said.

"This system breeds contempt among those who don't have the money and connections," he said.

Lawyers as a group do not properly serve the criminal justice system, Chambers said. He said that he didn't want to be a lawyer because he would have to

wear a suit. "People who wear suits don't do that much," he said. "The last time a lot of lawyers in suits worked together we ended up with Watergate and they ended up in jail."

Students are too concerned with getting jobs instead of doing what is right, Chambers said. Students need to have a value system to function in the criminal justice system, he said.

"If you go in clear-eyed and empty-headed, you're going to end up disillusioned. You can make changes if you're strong, but you have to be prepared to go against the grain," he said.

Students are disregarded by members of the NU Board of Regents, Chambers said.

"The regents can ignore the students even when they make a lot of noise because the students will end up going to a beer party and forget about the issue," he said.

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