

Computer system to improve general registration

By Dulcie Shoener

Lines for general registration at UNL may not be quite as long next semester if a computerized system called IRIS (Interim Registration Information System) can be completed in time.

Ted Pfeifer, UNL director of registration and records, said IRIS is almost sure to be used this January. However, one key component had not yet arrived by Thanksgiving vacation, and he said the system would not be used if it had not been tested in its entirety.

"Some portions are already up and operating," Pfeifer said, adding that his staff appears to enjoy using the system.

IRIS will not affect pre-registration, because current pre-registration by mail works, he said. In the future, IRIS is expected to go into operation immediately after the pre-registration period ends.

Since both IRIS and the pre-registration process are computerized, no time will be required to convert from pre-registration to general registration. In the past, a time period was needed to switch from pre-registration by computer to registration by cards.

IRIS also will allow special groups such as incoming freshmen, international students, graduate students and non-traditional students to register before the traditional general registration period, usually the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before classes begin. This will be more convenient for students and will decrease the number who must go through general registration, Pfeifer said.

Time appointment cards

He said time appointment cards still will be used, but

Fans' enthusiasm leaves . . .

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Burke also said that many people were drinking alcohol to excess.

Burke added that the Lancaster County Sheriff's office is compiling statistics pertaining to the numbers and types of arrests made Friday.

These statistics will be reviewed by the UNL police and will aid in determining new strategies for controlling crowds at future games.

the goal is to eliminate them in the future.

Several new registration forms will be used; one is a course request form similar to that used in pre-registration. Another is a special authorization or override form, which will help students who have permission to enroll in a closed course to take more credit hours than are offered or to take a course on a pass/no pass option when it is not offered that way.

IRIS will provide more service to students at less administrative cost and will improve the credibility of the files in the office of registration and records, Pfeifer said.

Another advantage, he said, is that the registration office will have its own equipment and will not have to use the computer terminals in Ferguson Hall, as has been done during free drop/add periods in the summer and finals week. Students will be able to process free drop/adds at the Administration Building; in addition, there probably will be more times available for drop/add, he said.

Other changes

Other changes IRIS will make are:

-Students will be able to apply and register for classes at one time.

-Registration blocks (instances in which a student has unpaid fines that must be cleared up before he can register) will be better enforced. At the same time, releases will be processed more rapidly, meaning fewer delays when students clear their fines.

-A student will receive a printout of his schedule each time he does a transaction with the officer, so he can walk

away assured that his schedule is as he believes it to be.

-Students will be able to enter a course number into specified terminals to determine for themselves whether the course is open.

-Identification cards will be printed during the registration process and given to each student before he leaves. If a student changes from part-time to full-time status or vice versa, the student will receive a new student ID card when the change is processed.

Similar systems are in use on other campuses, Pfeifer said. He said the term "interim" is used because IRIS is a part of another system being developed which is called the Student Information System.

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