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Missouri student government drawing more input

By Duane Retzlaff

The student body president at the University of Missouri at Columbia said student involvement at that school is increasing.

Jamie MacKenzie, president of the Missouri Student Association, (similar to UNL's ASUN) said last year's voter turnout in the student government elections was

Eye on the Big Eight

the second-highest ever.

He said 23 percent of the students voted in the general election and 19 percent in the run-off election last February. MacKenzie said the turnout was due partly to some controversy surrounding the former student body president, who was "almost impeached." In addition, there were more candidates than usual running for office, he said.

Student government officials, whose terms run from March to March, get paid for their efforts as well. The president is paid \$2,000 per year, the vice president gets \$1,250, and several other student officials also receive salaries.

One difference between Missouri and UNL, MacKenzie said, is that "all of our programming is done by MSA, not a union board."

MacKenzie said the MSA president is not on Missouri's Board of Curators, the equivalent of NU's Board of Regents. However, whenever there is an important student issue before the board, the MSA president can put himself on the agenda to address the board.

Little interchange

MacKenzie said the nine-member Curator Board is quite far removed from the university, and there isn't much interchange between the student government officials and the board.

"The board used to be mostly elderly gentlemen" who paid little attention to students, MacKenzie said, but added that the situation is improving.

The board, which has two recently elected younger members and one woman curator, showed it was more sensitive to students' concerns in November, when a proposal to place a 14.7 percent tuition surcharge on Missouri students was trimmed to 11.2 percent, MacKenzie said.

Students had argued that the surcharge, designed to raise \$5 million to cover the budget shortfall, put the whole burden on students.

It was the first time the board's finance committee accepted a compromise, he said.

MacKenzie said that when making the operating budget, he and other student government officials work closely with university administrators, such as Norman Moore, vice chancellor for student services.

Moore said Missouri is "pretty typical" in how the student activities budget is made.

Vice president is key

The MSA vice president is the key person, Moore said, conducting hearings and putting the budget together for approval by the 200-member student senate.

Moore said the budget gets final approval from the Board of Curators.

This year, the student activity fee was \$24, Moore said, \$7 of which goes to MSA. The Associated Students of the University of Missouri, or ASUM, is mostly a lobbying group, and gets \$1 out of the student fees, he said.

Suzanne Holland, assistant to the vice chancellor of student services, said student fees at Missouri "are the lowest in the Big Eight, in fact, probably the lowest anywhere."

Holland said the reason for this is that Missouri's student facilities are fewer and older than those at other Big Eight schools. In addition, the student health center's budget, usually a major item in the student fee budget, is included in the university's general operating budget.

Several drivers who parked in the lot directly east of the Nebraska Union got a surprise Tuesday afternoon when UNL Police began ticketing, and in some cases, towing cars with unpaid citations. A UNL police official said that cars are usually towed after two tickets are left unpaid. Students who think they may have unpaid tickets can find out by calling University Police Headquarters at 472-3555 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Staff Photo by Dave Bentz



Students hitch with Union's ride board

Perry Como says there's no place like home for the holidays. And you know that's true, but you've got a problem. No car and not enough money to buy a bus ticket, let alone a plane ticket. Relax. You don't have to sell your little sister's Christmas present to raise the money. There's an alternative.

It's called the ride board and is located on the first floor of the Nebraska Union, right outside of the ASUN offices and the Women's Resource Center.

Frank Kuhn, assistant director of operations for the Nebraska Union, said the board has been in operation for many years.

"I've been here since 1959 and it was here when I got here," Kuhn said. "It's a common service in most unions."

Students wanting rides to a particular destination, or wanting riders, put their name and phone numbers on slips of paper attached to the board. People going to the same destination call them to set up rides.

Jeff Bayer, a UNL senior who has used the ride board before, said it has been a help to him.

"I try to use it whenever I can," Bayer said. "A lot of my friends have used it, too."

Bayer, who said he has found rides or riders about 15 times by using the board, said that it's easier to get rides than passengers.

Bayer said vandalism is sometimes a problem with the board.

"A lot of times I'll put something up there and it's gone the next day," he said.



Staff Photo by Craig Andresen

Sophomores Wendy Reese, left, and Holly Dickey do some Christmas shopping Tuesday afternoon at the Centrum. Reese is an engineering major and Dickey majors in pre-pharmacy. Find out more about Christmas gift ideas in the Daily Nebraskan's Christmas supplement Thursday.

Professor: Defense robs social spending in Latin America

By Chris Welsch

Defense spending in Latin American countries robs funds from their health and education programs, according to William P. Avery, UNL associate professor of political science.

Avery recently has completed research on the Latin American countries. His work resulted in a paper titled "Economic and Social Effects of Latin American Defense Spending."

For every \$1 per capita increase in defense spending in Latin American countries, \$5 per person was not spent on non-military products and services, Avery said.

For each \$1 per capita increase in defense spending, \$2.64 per person was lost for education and \$1.69 was lost for health care, he said.

Avery said the proportional difference between defense spending and other programs is caused by the bloated defense budgets, as compared with small social program budgets.

The impact of the increasing defense budgets has a proportionally greater impact on revenue for smaller programs, he said.

Avery said Latin American countries are struggling to achieve better health care and a better-educated public, but as long as defense spending in these countries remains high, those goals won't be achieved.

"When you increase defense spending," he said, "You hurt domestic investment."

"When you have goals to achieve higher levels of economic development and you rob from domestic investment in order to finance defense, you are mortgaging the future," he said.

Avery said eventually his research will encompass the effects of increasing defense budgets on the entire world. He said he hopes to get four or five more papers out on his research. He began this project last summer on a Maude Hammond Fling Summer Fellowship.

Avery said he is now working on the impact of defense spending in other developing nations and in industrial nations.

He said he expects to find the same type of relationship between defense spending and social programs in the United States as well as the other countries, although perhaps not so dramatic, he added.