Nebraskan February 23, 1983 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Vol. 82, No. 110 Kilgarin, Hansen clash at UNL forum



Kermit Hansen

By Mona Koppelman

Proposed amendment LR5, that would increase legislative control over NU's budget, spurred a skirmish Tuesday between state Sen. Karen Kilgarin of Omaha and NU Regent Kermit Hansen at a UNL forum in the Nebraska Union. Kilgarin and 10 other senators are cosponsoring the resolution. The forum was sponsored by the Government Liaison Committee.

"LR5 . . , would return more direct authority over the university's budget to the Legislature," Kilgarin said. "This authority was abolished by a 1977 Nebraska Supreme Court ruling on a case that was initiated by the Board of Regents." Kilgarin said, "according to the record," the court decision was "pressed for" by Hansen.

"LR5 was introduced as a matter of philosophy," Kilgarin said. "How can the Legislature claim to set a responsible state budget when it has no authority over 20 percent of that budget?

"How can you expect the Legislature to be concerned with higher education when it has no basis on which to act?

"How can we provide for the future of our university, a future pragmatically set by the budget, when we cannot truly review the areas that signal our progress, and what areas need improvement?"

"What accountability do we have?" Kilgarin asked. "One yearly appearance before the Legislature's appropriations committee, with the question always framed in terms of how much more money should the university be granted . . . and rarely in terms of what that money should be spent for.

"This certainly does not reach the degree of accountability in government that is the traditional hallmark of accountability in Nebraska," Kilgarin said. "Nor does it allow maximum opportunity for publicopinion and public input."



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Karen Kilgarin

Job board offers growing chances for employment, despite economy

By Lori Sullivan

The job situation for UNL students is not good, it hasn't been for quite some time. But, if it's any consolation, students who apply for jobs listed with UNL Financial Aids office have a much better chance of finding work, Valerie Fisher, assistant director of scholarships and financial aids, said.

From July to December 1982, Fisher said her office listed a total of 452 jobs. Of the jobs listed, students filled 406 positions or 89.9 percent of the total.

The number of employers listing jobs with the Financial Aids office also has increased from last year. In the same six-month period in 1981, 314 jobs were listed with the office, compared with this year's 452.

Fisher said the increase in job listings does not necessarily indicate economic improvement. The state of the economy has caused the listings to increase, she said. Employers have cut back on their newspaper advertising for jobs because they have been flooded with applicants. Many of them have decided to seek employees solely through the UNL Financial Aids office job listing board, causing the number of listings and the percentage of students getting jobs to increase.

However, students are at a disadvantage in the job market in other ways, Fisher said. One of the surprising aspects of this problem is that graduates and students are trying to get the same jobs.

"People are really desperate," she said. "Students are now competing with people who ordinarily would have a better, full-time job."

Many traditional high-paying student summer jobs simply do not exist any more, she said. The closing of the Safeway grocery stores and layoffs in construction and railroad work have had a direct effect on the student job outlook.

Even during the semester break, students were looking for jobs, Fisher said. One day, within a three-hour period, 20 people applied for a job, and a continuous stream of job seekers kept up during break, she said.

When the Richman Gordman Half-Price Store chain asked her office to send qualified applicants for parttime positions, Fisher said, she sent 108 applicants for the estimated 60 job openings.

"I could have sent more than 108 easily; I think this is indicative of how badly people need jobs," she said.

In the past, child care and food service jobs were the last to be filled, Fisher said. However, those jobs now are being filled quickly as a result of the tighter job market. Even jobs with odd hours and distant locations are filled rapidly, she said.

Many employers list jobs regularly at her office, Fisher said. The continuation is a good indicator of the high quality of student work, she said.

Employers call back and say that student applicants were well-qualified and that they would have liked to hire all the people who applied, she said.

"Most employers are quite impressed with the qualifications that students have," Fisher said.

Fisher said she is not aware of any students who have been forced to drop out of school because of economic problems. She said her office tries to do everything possible to help students be financially able to attend school.

Some students may think that filling out the forms and applications in the office has no value, she said. Unfortunately, students who do not have the needed qualifications are not contacted. She urged those students to check back with the office regularly and keep trying.

Bob Wolz, a junior anthropology major, said he would like to change jobs because he is unable to work enough hours and needs a summer job. His job ends with the regular school year and he said he will "probably end up beating the streets" to find a job that will continue into the summer.

Another job seeker, Jon Brake, a sophomore business administration major, said he has not been able to find a job yet this semester. Many people hire students because they are "cheap labor and really need a job," he said.

Creighton transfer student Tom Magnuson, a junior philosophy major, said the Omaha job market is much better than Lincoln's. Students should look well in advance if they hope to find work, he said. Magnuson, who has been a bartender for two years, said he got the job through a friend's help.

"Connections are important - without them, I don't think I'd be working now," he said.

Reiners: Key to harrassment case is documentation

By Pat O'Leary

The only woman to win a sexual harassment case in Nebraska said her best advice to women who think they are being sexually harassed is to document everything.

"Get down exactly what happened - dates, times, places, situations and other people who were present," Jeanette Reiners told 15 students at the Student Y in the Nebraska Union Tuesday.

Reiners said sexual harassment is ambiguous, dangerous and mentally and financially costly.

"I'm not trying to scare you," Reiners said, "but I am trying to make you understand what an impossible problem sexual harassment is."

Reiners filed a complaint against her employer, The Safety Council of Nebraska, in July 1980. Her superior had victimized her at first by making lewd suggestions and jokes, she said.

"Do not laugh and accept it," she said. "Sometimes I did because I didn't want to believe that it was serious. I wanted it to be a joke."

But soon he made physical contact with her against her will, she said. If this happens to any student, Reiners suggested that the student call the Commission on the Status of Women, the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, The Nebraska Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Commission on Human Rights.

Supporting a case strong enough to hold up in court is difficult, Reiners said.

"The Commission on Human Rights urged me to settle out of court," she said. "If I had, I'd be dollars ahead, but I doubt that's how we're going to get rid of the problem."

Throughout the trial, finally decided in September of 1982, the defense attorney tried everything to discredit her, she said.

"First they tried to prove that I was mentally incompetent, then that I was a whore and a liar," Reiners said. "Then they tried to say that I had never done my job well."

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