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# AAUP ends earlier plans to unionize UNL faculty

By Ann Lowe  
 Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Despite a failed attempt to unionize last spring, the UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors is alive and well. But it probably won't try for collective bargaining again this year, AAUP President Linda Pratt said.

The AAUP, a professional organization for faculties at about 1,300 U.S. universities, campaigned last spring to make the UNL chapter a collective bargaining group.

Nebraska public employees generally are forbidden to form unions and strike, so the case would have been heard by the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations. The CIR would have had to approve an election before the UNL faculty could vote on whether or not to make the AAUP a union.

About 500 faculty members — more than the 30 percent required for CIR review — signed cards requesting an election on collective bargaining, Pratt said. However, the AAUP voted in April to abandon its campaign. Members felt there was not enough support to win an election, Pratt said.

A 30 percent response from the faculty didn't guarantee that a majority wanted to unionize, Pratt said.

"We felt that we would need 60 to 64 percent of the cards to win the election," she said.

Sparse response from East Campus professors offset stronger support on City Campus, where about 75 percent of professors in the College of Arts and Science returned their cards, Pratt said.

The UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources depends on agribusiness lobbies, Pratt said, and many East Cam-

pus professors felt no need for a union. "We could have won on city campus — easily."

Though the collective bargaining campaign failed, Pratt said AAUP membership rose as much as 20 percent last spring. UNL now has about 200 AAUP members.

The AAUP cannot negotiate contracts, but it still can support the faculty on academic and administrative matters, Pratt said. Among its concerns this year are tenure and promotion, faculty workload and faculty relations with administration, she said.

AAUP has no plans to renew the campaign to unionize, Pratt said. But the group will try again if UNL professors demand a union.

"We intend to be responsive to what the faculty wants us to be," Pratt said.

## Cohabiting...

Continued from Page 1

"If the court does not dock her alimony, she is not deterred from living with another man," Gardner said. "In fact, she could be seen as double-dipping, so to speak."

Gardner said cohabitation is still "illicit behavior, even if a lot of people accept it."

Scott Davis, attorney with Marti Dalton, Bruckner, O'Gara and Keating, P.C. said he does not think the court will terminate Mrs. Roth's alimony.

share, he would have no legal or financial responsibilities for her welfare. Only a husband by law, the man on the marriage license, is financially responsible, Davis said.

Davis foresaw many legal problems that would result if the court decided to terminate or reduce Mrs. Roth's alimony: income tax snarls, divorce agreements including provisions in case of cohabitation and streams of court cases asking re-assessment of alimony because of new financial support.

Cohabitation is not always a long-term arrangement, Davis said. If Ely would move out of the apartment he and Mrs. Roth

"I very much doubt the court will want to start more litigation," Davis said. "Life is so complicated now, why make it any tougher?"

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