

Officials back alcohol study

But drinking ban still has approval of UNL leaders

By Lee Rood
Staff Reporter

Four university officials agree with ASUN's decision to review UNL's current alcohol policy, even though they approve of the policy.

James Griesen, interim vice chancellor for student affairs and a member of the committee to review the policy, said the decision was appropriate. But given Nebraska's current drinking age of 21, Griesen said, he doubts the policy will change much.

Housing Director Douglas Zatechka, also a committee member, said the dry-campus policy the university holds is in line with many schools' policies.

With the drinking age changing in many states, Zatechka said, there is a lot of "gnashing of teeth" to try to change other wet campuses back to dry ones.

Schools that faced opposition to their dry campuses in the past now are feeling good about their decision,

Zatechka said.

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek affairs, said the current policy was "more than adequate" considering the state's legal drinking age.

UNL's current policy says no alcoholic beverages are to be carried across UNL property or allowed in any fraternity, sorority or residence hall.

John Yost, associate to UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, said the pol-

icy, originally devised by the Board of Regents, has been strictly enforced. Zatechka agreed.

Some critics of the current policy say it prompts students to drive off university grounds to drink, which may lead to drunk driving.

Zatechka said he does not disagree with the current policy, but there may be ways to refine it and make it more equitable."

DWI ages go up

Statistics supplied by the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs suggest higher drinking-age laws can reduce the number of young people arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Ron Dade, research analyst for LCAD, said those statistics show that the most frequent age of DWI offenders has risen from 20 to 22 years since the Nebraska drinking age was raised from 20 to 21 in 1985.

Dade said he believes the change is due to the availability of alcohol. Because 20-year-olds are no longer

able to get alcohol legally, he said, most of those arrested for DWI are moving up into a higher age bracket.

The 19-to-24 age group always has been the most likely to produce offenders, Dade said, because they have the most freedom and money to spend.

Nineteen to 24-year-olds make up 41.5 percent of those arrested for DWI in Lincoln and Lancaster County, even though only 11.5 percent of the population falls into that age group, Dade said.

UNL faculty cast votes for salary pool

By Kip Fry
Staff Reporter

The UNL Faculty Senate unanimously voted Tuesday to support a \$4.9 million salary pool currently before the Nebraska State Legislature.

According to the resolution, each campus in the NU system will receive a share of the salary pool in proportion to the disparity between the salary levels of each.

The proposal weathered an attempt to table it on the grounds that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate needs to take another look at it. The attempt was overwhelmingly voted down.

"The Faculty Senate needs to decide this and take a stand on it now," said Ted Wright, an architecture professor.

"A lot of work has gone into this," said President Allen Blezek, before the vote to table was taken. Blezek is an agricultural education professor.

Other debate concerned whether the figures were negotiable with the resolution as it currently stands.

"There is no room for negotiation," said Sen. Maurice Baker, an ag economics teacher.

"The proposal is the first stage of a multi-year salary-enhancement program that is planned to cover most, if not all, of the faculty in keeping with the commitment to achieving parity in faculty salaries with peer institutions," the resolution said.



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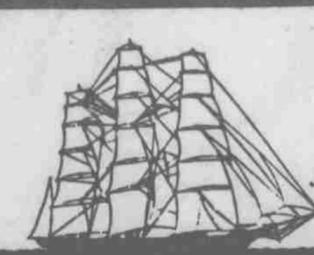
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