

ASUN passes fee resolution

By Ryan Steeves
Staff Reporter

In their final meeting, the members of the 1988-89 Association of Students of the University of Nebraska passed a resolution urging new senators to investigate the possibility of total student control over student fees.

Former Sen. Brian Svoboda, who introduced the resolution, said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the senators' support for the resolution. The Committee for Fees Allocation had voted against the bill in early March. "This shows that at least we want to look into the proposal," Svoboda said.

Former senators passed the resolution 13-5 despite objections from former Sens. Kevin

Lytle and Jeff Gromowsky, who said senators had ample opportunity to act on the resolution before Wednesday.

Gromowsky said he deeply resented the resolution being brought up on the Senate's last night. He said senators had been told to take care of Wednesday night's business quickly so new ASUN members could be inaugurated.

Graduate Sen. Kevin Williams was disappointed by the senators' rush to adjourn.

"I am really disturbed that senators are in such a hurry to get new senators in tonight that they don't want to take care of business," Williams said.

Thirty-two senators and three executive officers were inaugurated following senate business.

Students research supremacists

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White supremacists use recruiting strategies to play upon the economic frustrations of people, Aden said. They tried to recruit Midwestern farmers during the farm crisis, but economic recovery has since slowed their efforts, he said. Many Midwestern farmers were reluctant to join such groups, he said.

Sobnosky said white supremacist leaders are more sophisticated than their followers and present a "positive public image," he said.

"They are articulate and reasonable in what they say," he said. "It's hard to mistrust someone who looks like your grandfather."

Jack Kay, chairman of the speech communications department, has researched white supremacy groups for five years and said most members of such groups tend to be financially frustrated people who are looking for someone to blame for their problems. The average member isn't highly educated, he said, but the leadership is different.

Aden agreed. "That's one reason the movement hasn't died off," Aden said. "The leaders know what they are doing."

By simply dialing the access code on a telephone, Sobnosky said, anyone can gain access to the Aryan Nations Liberty Net computer bulletin board and read essays and other information favoring white supremacy.

Computer bulletin board services are largely unregulated and allow supremacists to share information more cheaply than by printing pamphlets, he said.

Sobnosky included printouts from the network in his master's thesis. One document lists cases throughout history where Jews were expelled for "crimes against humanity."

Sobnosky said he was surprised much of the information supremacists use is documented.

"I don't agree with how they interpret it," he said.

In one case during the Civil War, Jews were expelled from an area of the South occupied by Union troops. Sobnosky said there was documentation to support the claim.

Another essay found on the computer bulletin board claimed that missing Christian children actually are kidnapped by Jews to be killed in rituals, he said. According to supremacist claims, the numbers of missing children increase near Jewish holidays.

Because many people aren't familiar with Jewish religious practices and holidays, Sobnosky said, supremacists claim the religion is "mysterious."

Because leaders probably would have personality conflicts, the groups aren't likely to unite, he said.

That is fortunate, Aden said, because there are "thousands" of white supremacists in the United States.

Course is aimed at math-anxious

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The recollection of these experiences is common among women who experience math anxiety, Wheeler said.

Young men who are afraid of math are of a different type than the "perfectionist" women, she said. Wheeler said men with math anxiety tend to be more sensitive and were most likely "clobbered" by rigid math teachers.

"It's funny because people sometimes brag about it," Wheeler said. "People say, 'Well, I never could do math,' when they would never say, 'Well, I never could write a sentence.'"

Although Wheeler's pre-session tutoring classes are open to anyone, they are particularly applicable to people taking Educational Psychology 459/859 or Math 180, she said. Both classes are statistics courses for non-science majors.

"Many people who are required to take this course are scared to death of it," she said. "They have avoided it for a long time and are sure they can't do it."

The tutoring classes begin by reviewing basic algebra, use of a calculator and an introduction to the notation and vocabulary of statistics, she said. Strategies for people to deal with math anxiety also are covered.

"We work on positive self-messages, relaxation training, self-motivating skills and test-taking skills," Wheeler said.

If students are particularly math anxious, they are taught "visualizations" of certain math concepts, she said.

Many people who experience math anxiety also experience test anxiety in this subject, she said.

"I had one woman who said to me she went into a test and saw the paper as white -- there was no writing at all," Wheeler said. "She said, 'Why can I do this in my kitchen when I can't do this in a test?'"

To solve this problem, Wheeler encourages students to recreate home-like surroundings when in a test environment.

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