

Committee studies classroom technology

By David Burchell
Staff Reporter

A UNL campus committee is examining the impact of technology in the classroom -- including everything from transparencies to video discs.

"We're thinking of technology across the spectrum," said committee chairwoman Charlene Sexton, assistant professor of Vocational and Adult Education.

The committee, "Electronic Information: Use of Technology in College Teaching," is composed of eight faculty members from various departments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The group, known informally as the E.I. Study Group, was created in September by the UNL Teaching Council, whose goal is to promote faculty development, Sexton said.

Sexton said the group is looking at the "educational philosophy" of

technology, as well as the technology itself.

Among the issues being looked at by the E.I. Study Group is the effect of uneven access to technology among students.

Papers typed on computers are neater and more "beautiful" than those produced with typewriters, Sexton said. Professors often expect neat, computer-generated papers, she said, and subconsciously become biased against those written with typewriters.

That could give students with computers an advantage, Sexton said.

But, she said, the group does not research those issues directly. Instead it takes the role of encouraging and coordinating such studies, she said.

The group also will conduct faculty workshops, support faculty review of software and act as a center for educational technology material and information.

The study group also is sponsoring a national teleconference May 10 on technology in education. Called "A Look into the Future of Education and Technology," the teleconference will feature national experts in educational technology, Sexton said.

Topics discussed will include privacy on computer systems, interactive video, and using voice recognition on computers, where computers respond to oral commands.

The conference will take place in the College of Business Administration auditorium.

Sexton said the committee members also are considering starting a program in which faculty members would study issues in educational technology.

Ten to 12 faculty members would apply to participate in either a one- or two-year program, Sexton said.

She said the program still is in the planning stages.

Parking

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faculty senate representative, objected to narrowing the difference between 24-hour and 10-hour permits.

The 10-hour permits would free parking spaces for students attending night classes, Karels said.

But with only a \$60 difference per year between the two permits, "no one will buy the 10-hour" permit, "so we're back to wasted space," he said.

Karels said he thinks the \$360 for the 24-hour permit is "underpriced, not overpriced." If people think the price is too high, they can "buy something else," he said.

"What they're saying is that they want something for nothing," he said.

The committee also discussed changing the proposed 10-hour permit to a 12-hour permit, from 7 a.m.

to 7 p.m., as suggested at the dean's and director's meeting in March, Burke said.

Burke's proposal would set reserved parking student permits at \$180 a year. The spaces would be open all day. Currently, students with reserved parking permits pay \$150 for 24-hour parking.

Committee members in March proposed different rates for reserved student parking. According to the minutes of that meeting, commuter students could buy either a 24-hour or a 10-hour reserved parking permit. The 24-hour annual rate would cost \$240. The 10-hour rate would cost \$180 annually.

Students living on campus could buy reserved spaces, on a 24-hour basis only, for \$240.

Burke's proposal included an increase for regular annual student permits to \$60, from the current \$50

annually. He said Goebel agreed that if the permits were raised to \$60, the rate would not change the next year.

Karels and Wassenberg objected to raising it because the committee had promised UNL students that the rate, when raised for the 1989-90 school year, would remain the same for 1990-91.

Ron Fuller, staff assistant for the parking division, said the division "wants to make sure we don't come up short" to cover expenses associated with emergencies and planned improvement projects.

Karels suggested the university not make some of the improvements.

"I don't hear people clamoring they want the lots paved. I hear them clamoring (about) raising the rates again," he said.

The committee agreed to review the rates suggested by Burke and vote on them at its meeting April 16.

Jobs

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company, Andcor Companies Inc., of Minneapolis, found that many college graduates have unrealistic expectations when they enter the job

market.

Most students expect to find jobs within three months after graduation at medium-sized or large companies, and earn starting salaries of at least \$24,000, Andcor found after questioning 692 college students in Minnesota.

Realistically, most college graduates will spend about six months looking for jobs that pay \$15,000 to \$23,000 a year for firms with fewer than 100 employees, said Christy Geiger, on-campus representative program coordinator for Andcor.

in brief

NEWS

Great Plains symposium scheduled

The Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will host its 14th annual symposium, "Climate Change on the Great Plains," from Thursday to Saturday.

The symposium, featuring addresses and papers by internationally known writers and scholars, will be held at the Lincoln Hilton, 9th and P streets, and at the City Campus.

Sessions for the symposium include cultural responses to climate change, at 8:30 a.m. Friday, and plains climate comparisons at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The sessions involve presentations by a climatologist, a professor of literature, an economist and guest scholars from China and Canada.

Free evening lectures include an opening address by Thomas R. Karl, chief of the Global Climatological Laboratory of the National Climatic Data Center. Karl will discuss "Global Climate Change and the Great Plains" at 7:30 p.m. in Love Library Auditorium.

A public poetry reading and art opening will be held in the Center for Great Plains Studies Art Collection, 205 Love Library at 8 p.m. Friday. William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet and professor of English at Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Robert Kroetsch of the University of Manitoba will read their poetry.

Ian Frazier, author of the best-selling "Great Plains," will close the symposium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Kimball Recital Hall.

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