

ASUN will address racism, ballot initiatives

By Jennifer O'Clarka
Senior Reporter

Creating a better campus atmosphere and addressing ballot initiatives that affect students are jobs facing student government this year, a student leader said.

Phil Gosch, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president, and three other officers were chosen by students in March elections. ASUN serves as the student voice in University of Nebraska-Lincoln government.

Gosch serves on the NU Board of Regents as a non-voting member. First Vice President Stacy Mohling acts as a liaison with the faculty senate and presides over the ASUN senate, and Second Vice President Yolanda Scott serves on the appointments board and does public relations. Students elect senators from each college. The senate meets weekly to debate and pass legislation on campus issues.

Gosch said student leaders hope to inform students about ballot initiatives that will affect them. These include the proposed 2-percent lid on

budget spending and LB1141, the restructuring of college governance in Nebraska.

Gosch said he thought students should realize college is a different atmosphere where they can meet people from many races and backgrounds.

"Our job is to create an atmosphere that is educational and protects everyone's interests," he said. "Our job is to do what we can to make this a better place for students by concerning ourselves with improvement."

Scott said ASUN is planning a Cultural Diversity Retreat for Sept. 28-30. Several student organizations and the student affairs office are sponsoring the event.

Scott said a California professional team, New Bridges, would teach the "isms of oppressions and how to be better allies of those of different cultures and those from our own cultures."

"This is different because they will be doing a lot of individual and personal growth and education about racism," she said. "All will develop internally as well as externally. We

will confront ourselves about our own idiosyncrasies and fears, and confront each other as a group."

Also, ASUN is working toward a series of cultural diversity events Sept. 24-28, Scott said.

Gosch said the NU Board of Regents approved revisions in the student code of conduct this summer that ASUN members worked for last year. These revisions included reorganizing and clarifying the wording of the code and adding a violation about the misuse of computers.

Revisions to the student code created 29 misconduct violations, including those dealing with new problems like computer fraud. The old code only included 10 violations.

ASUN members and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen recommended revising parts of the code without the addition of a fighting words policy.

This is because of the continuing debate over such a policy, Gosch said.

"I think there are some students that think fighting words policies are beneficial," Gosch said. "I think it will continue to be a divisive issue."

Gosch said the controversy over the graduate studies senators would continue to be important this fall.

Last year, ASUN members decided to petition in support of a student who won the Division of Continuing Studies senate seat. The student was informed after the election that she was ineligible because she carried fewer than 12 credit hours.

ASUN bylaws require senators to take at least 12 credit hours.

Gosch said senators petitioned students this summer to allow graduate studies students taking only three

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Gosch
ASUN president

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credit hours to become ASUN senators.

"Unfortunately, the Division of Continuing Studies is filled with a lot of nontraditional students. Most of those are working, have families and the average only takes three hours," Gosch said. "Only 1 percent take 12."

"If we're going to represent those (graduate students) we need to change the hour limit from 12 to three."

Another ASUN concern is getting people involved in leadership, he said.

To reach out to students, ASUN is having an open house Sept. 12 in its offices.

"It will give (students) an opportunity to meet their college senators or board members," Scott said.

Also, ASUN will conduct an interviewing skills workshop for any members who want to apply for lead-

ership positions, and two leadership workshops for advisory board members and campuswide committees, Scott said.

Gosch said students who want to get involved should stop in the ASUN office or call.

"There are any number of ways to get involved," he said.

Several committee and senatorial positions are open this fall, Gosch said. These include an Arts and Sciences senator, an agriculture college senator and a residence hall seat on the Committee for Fees Allocation.

Also, membership is open on the Government Liaison Committee, the organization that lobbies the Legislature on student issues.

"I'd encourage any student interested in student government or a certain issue to come in," Gosch said. "Any student interested, I'll find something for them to do."

Although some students have viewed ASUN as apathetic, Gosch said, he was confident this year's student government could get things done.

Gosch said senators this year are a "solid" group interested in working.

"This summer has shown me that if you do your homework and groundwork you can set out to do what you want," he said. "I think before the semester is out, you're going to see us get these scholarships (for South African students) and make a difference in the merger of Kearney State (into the NU system)."

UNL officials hope new major attracts more science students

By Jennifer Davis
Staff Reporter

This fall, UNL will offer a new major in biochemistry which could attract more students, an official said.

Herman Knoche, a professor of biochemistry, said the new major is similar to a chemistry major, but will include more courses in biology and fewer in physical science.

The decision to add the major came after looking at comparable institutions that enroll from one to 300 students in biochemistry at a time, Knoche said.

Faculty felt the University of Nebraska-Lincoln might fail to attract students because of a lack of the major, he said. After a two-year process, the Center for Biological Chemistry received final approval by the regents this summer to add the major,

he said.

Only one new class will be added to the curriculum for the biochemistry major, Knoche said. The major will combine a number of courses that already exist at UNL, he said.

The new class will explore career opportunities in biochemistry, he said.

Brochures will be prepared and distributed to students who are interested in this biochemistry major, Knoche said. It also will appear in the next student undergraduate bulletin that will be available in January.

The new major will be offered through the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture, Knoche said. Science requirements will be the same for both colleges, he said, but they will have different liberal education requirements.

Knoche said he couldn't predict the popularity of the new major. "We'll have to wait for students' reaction."

Foreign Service exam to be given

A once-a-year Foreign Service Written Examination will be offered Oct. 27.

The test will be given in more than 200 locations in the U.S. and at all the U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, a press release said.

The written examination is the first step to appointment as a career Foreign Service Officer with the State Department.

To be eligible to take the exam, applicants must be at least 20 years old on the date of the test, be citizens of the United States and be available for worldwide assignment.

Although no specific education or educational level is required to take the examination, success on the written exam requires a broad knowledge of international and domestic affairs, U.S. and world history, government and foreign policy, as well as political and cultural sensitivity.

For more information and to receive the examination application, write the Department of State, Recruitment Division, P.O. Box 9317, Arlington, Va., 22209.

The deadline is Sept. 21 for submitting completed applications to the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J.

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