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LAUNDRY LAND

N. 27TH & STARR 21ST & J

Committee to consider adding fighting words policy to code

By Shelley Miller
Staff Reporter

A special UNL committee again will consider adding a fighting words policy to the Student Code of Conduct, the vice chancellor for student affairs said.

James Griesen said he will appoint between 11 and 13 student and faculty representatives to the advisory committee this week.

The committee will study changes and additions to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, including a fighting words policy. The policy would set up punishments for racial or sexual harassment.

Griesen said such a policy is needed to "add some teeth" to the student code to help prevent instances of verbal harassment on campus. Currently there is no penalty in the code for such slurs.

Under the proposed policy, abusive language that is used to intentionally provoke a violent response would be punishable.

A fighting words policy was introduced last spring and debated by the UNL Student Code Review Committee. In April, committee members failed to include the policy in their recommended student code revisions.

At that time, some of the committee members said further study of the policy was necessary to examine and

address all concerns, including freedom of speech considerations.

Griesen said the new committee will take into account protection of freedom of speech when formulating the policy.

He said he intends to bring examples of what other schools have done to prevent verbal harassment to the first committee meeting, which will be in about two weeks.

"We will look at what they have done, incorporate our own thoughts and fashion what we think is best for UNL," he said.

Griesen said he would like to see the policy completed by the end of this semester.

Ombudsman to settle artifacts dispute

By Dionne Searcey
Staff Reporter

The decision of whether the Nebraska State Historical Society should return human remains and burial artifacts claimed by the Pawnee tribe rests in the hands of the state ombudsman, an official said.

Steve Moore, staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund, said the Oklahoma Tribe of Pawnee Indians filed a grievance in September with the Nebraska State Historical Society because the society would not return artifacts the tribe requested.

The tribe had asked for the return of human skeletons and burial goods.

James Hanson, director of the Nebraska State Historical Society, said researchers found that the items were not traceable to the Pawnee tribe.

But Moore disagreed. "There's solid evidence that they (the artifacts) are linked to the Pawnees. The tribe is not interested in getting (human) remains that aren't traceable," he said.

Nebraska's Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act states that if two par-

ties disagree about the transfer of Indian artifacts, "a third party agreed on by both original parties will assist in the resolution of the dispute."

Moore said it was agreed that the state ombudsman would cast the deciding vote of who is the rightful owner of the artifacts.

Under the law, either party can appeal the ombudsman's decision to the courts.

"The Pawnee tribe is not backing off its claims," Moore said.

The ombudsman will decide the case by March 13.

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Abortion

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receiving abortions.

"I think statistics can tell you a lot," the Lincoln senator said.

"What we need is a profile of who is getting an abortion," she said.

Crosby said that LB478 would add

to the list of questions the state is required to ask women having abortions.

LB478 would allow legislators and state agencies to find out what the real problems are with abortion, she said.

"If we get a better profile of the women receiving abortions, it will help us solve the real problem behind

abortions," Crosby said.

In many ways, she said, society turns its back on those dealing with an unwanted pregnancy.

Members of society want women to "have the baby and then they don't help" once the child is born, she said.

"I have a great compassion and I think it's (abortion) a cruel answer to a problem," she said.

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