

ASUN president says diversity is important ingredient at UNL

By Adeana Leftin
Senior Reporter

Federal aid to students, out-of-state tuition rates and the UNL budget topped the ASUN president's summer project list.

Andy Massey, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said forcing out-of-state students to wait longer before applying for residency to pay in-state tuition could hurt diversity at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Massey said UNL would be isolated without the diversity brought by out-of-state students.

He said he didn't think the money Nebraska taxpayers would save by forcing out-of-state students to pay out-of-state tuition for a longer period was worth the cost to UNL.

"We want a cosmopolitan university environment," he said. "Now we're looking like we're willing to jeopardize that. I think the students should know about it and care about it."

At the June NU Board of Regents meeting, Regent Don Blank of McCook called Nebraska residency requirements a "sham" that forced Nebraska taxpayers to pay for the education of out-of-state students.

Massey said the regents were "jumping on an issue that's not as one-sided as some regents

think.

"They have to understand that you don't get educated at college just in the classroom," he said.

Aside from residency restrictions, Massey said he has been busy with other student concerns this summer.

He testified before the House of Representatives Congressional Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education about high national federal aid default rates preventing some Midwest students from receiving aid.

Despite low student loan default rates at UNL and throughout the Midwest, he said, high default rates nationally make the loans more difficult to get.

"It's a big problem," he said, "and we can't afford to, on the federal level, lose the money."

Massey said he also brought to the regents' attention an inconsistency in the summer student loan process. Students needing loans for summer school are not receiving their checks until three to five weeks after the tuition due date.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of Nebraska at Omaha have developed systems to bypass the delayed payments, he said.

"If Kearney can do it and Omaha can do it, so can UNL," Massey said.

GLC working for fair budget cuts

By Chas Baylor
Staff Reporter

During the summer, UNL's Government Liaison Committee worked to ensure that mandatory budget cuts faced by the University of Nebraska will be fair to students, the committee chairman said.

Andrew Sigerson said that for the most part, GLC worked with Andy Massey, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, to "make sure students' needs are heard on the Budget Reduction Review Committee."

The reduction committee, which is composed of students, faculty, and administrators, must meet the 2-percent reduction in NU's base budget imposed last year by the Nebraska Legislature.

Sigerson said GLC is working to maximize student representation and involvement on the committee.

Specifically, Sigerson said, GLC is concerned about increases in student fees and excessive cuts in computers and programs in academic departments.

"The basic role of the GLC over the summer," he said, "was just to plan and strategize for the coming year."

On that score, he said, the committee contacted legislative aides at the Nebraska Capitol.

Sigerson said that he and GLC lobbyist Lisa Miller also are working to ensure that students receive their share of the revenues of a proposed lottery.

Another GLC project is finding a way to enable students to drop and add classes by phone, he said.

Sigerson said the committee is planning "massive recruiting" in residence halls and student groups this fall to maximize involvement in student government and the Legislature.

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