

Two offices merge

Job hunting is more convenient

By Melissa Dunne
Staff Reporter

The merger of two UNL offices will provide students with convenient "one-stop shopping" when looking for a job or internship, a university official said.

Marcia Phelps, coordinator of Internships and the Cooperative Education office, initiated the marriage of the Student Employment Office and the Internship Office.

The new office, called the Internship/Cooperative Education Office, is located in room 345 of the Nebraska Union.

"From my perspective, it makes a

lot of sense to offer 'one-stop' shopping. Students now have the convenience of one central clearinghouse of information," she said.

The Internship/Cooperative Education Office also has added a student employment job line. The job line offers brief descriptions of available jobs and contacts.

Phelps said she has received positive feedback from students, employers and faculty about the merger.

"I think students really appreciate the consolidation, centralization and simplification of the job process," she said.

Before the merger, the employment office was located in room 236

of the Nebraska Union and focused on work-study and other jobs that were not necessarily related to a student's major.

Initially, the employment office operated through the Financial Aid Office. It posted job openings on boards and assigned work-study jobs.

"Since the change, we've had a significant increase in the number of students accepting their work-study and a significant decrease in turnover," Phelps said.

The internship office, before the merger, offered students entry-level professional experience specifically related to their career and academic interests.

Nelson appoints members to education commission

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Editor

Gov. Nelson delayed appointing members of a postsecondary coordinating commission until Thursday because of the importance of the tasks that the group will tackle, an official said.

Jeff Barnes, spokesman for the governor, said Nelson carefully chose members of the new commission. "It was a long and thorough process," he said.

The former coordinating commission was abolished July 1. Since then, a transition commission has handled the function of the office. The new commission will begin work in January.

The announcement ended a lengthy study conducted by Widmayer and Associates, a Chicago-based consulting firm. The firm studied statewide meetings and hearings on the structure of Nebraska higher education.

NU Regent Don Blank said Nelson's delay paid off because "quality people" were selected to serve on the commission.

"(Nelson) made a good selection. . . It sounds like he's got a good group," he said.

Nelson appointed 11 members; six commissioners will represent districts, and five were named as at-large representatives.

District representatives are Jane Renner Hood of Lincoln, executive director of the Nebraska Humanities Council; Dick C.E. Davis of Omaha, director of administration for Northern Plains

Natural Gas Co.; Rudi Mitchell of Macy, a Native American consultant; Randolph Ferlic of Omaha, a cardiac surgeon; Christine Peterson of Grand Island, associate director of Leadership Tomorrow, and Janice Carlson of Lodgepole, a homemaker who is involved in a family farming operation.

At-large commissioners are Eric Seacrest of North Platte, publisher of Western Publishing Co. and a member of the old coordinating board; Norman Otto of Lincoln, chief of staff for former governors Frank Morrison and Jim Exon; John Emery of Omaha, an employee of Ameritas and former Hastings College Teacher; Scottsbluff attorney John Wright and Sheila Griffin of Lincoln, a consultant and a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Barnes said the group's purpose is to develop a comprehensive plan for higher education, role and mission statements and a capital facilities plan.

The commission will also make recommendations on the budgets of all universities and colleges and eliminate duplicate programs.

"It's a tough job. . . And quite often I'd have to say 'no,' it won't be fun," Blank said.

But although the commission may face tougher decisions, the group will be more effective, he said.

Blank said the old group could only make recommendations. The new coordinating commission will have more power to eliminate duplicate programs and make budgetary changes.

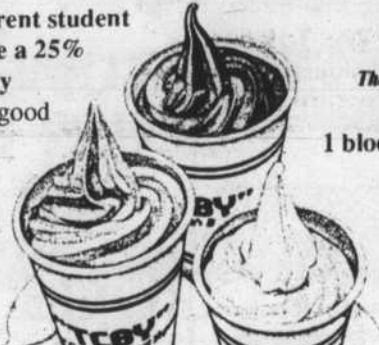
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