

UNL gridlock

Process not producing better results

Political scientists estimate that the Soviet Union and the United States have the two largest bureaucracies in the world.

If so, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln must be in third place.

Last month, the Executive Graduate Council questioned university officials' right to make proposed budget cuts to graduate programs without the council's approval. The proposed cuts would slash graduate programs such as those in the speech communications and classics departments.

The recommendations came after several months of budget-cutting deliberations.

A letter from NU general counsel Richard Wood to the Academic Planning Committee this week said procedures for deletion or consolidation of graduate programs must abide by the executive committee's rules.

"Everyone should be alerted to the fact that at such a point that a graduate program is triggered for elimination or consolidation, this process must be triggered," said Bill Splinter, interim vice chancellor for research and dean of graduate studies.

The executive council has its own bureaucratic procedure. A member said Wednesday that its deliberations could take three to four months.

Apparently, compliance with the council's rules won't delay the bulk of the budget-cutting process. The main body charged with examining the proposed cuts — the Budget Reduction Review Committee — can still go ahead with its deliberations, with a target of presenting its recommendations to the Academic Planning Committee by late November.

The buck, or the budget, does not stop there, however. Next, the recommendations go to UNL Chancellor-to-be Graham Spanier and, finally, to the NU Board of Regents.

Now that the bureaucracy has been set in motion, any revisions cause further delay and confusion. The latest developments shed more light on a process that appears to have been bungled from the start.

The budget-cutting mistakes are easy to see. UNL has not had to go through a similar budget trauma for some time.

Cuts should not be made in a hasty, authoritarian manner. One of the advantages of a cumbersome system is that everyone gets to put a word in. When people's jobs are at stake, expedience should not come at the expense of fairness.

But a slow, committee-laden system still must follow proper guidelines. Unfortunately, the lack of expedience in this case doesn't seem to have resulted in greater fairness or efficiency.

—E.F.P.

What others think

UNL suffers from delusions of grandeur

Well, well. It seems that some of the campuses within the University of Nebraska system have been suffering delusions of grandeur.

Perhaps the Daily Nebraskan would like to compare notes on regents meetings and the divvying up of the budget pie this summer and see which of the equal campuses came out better — it certainly wasn't UNO or UNK.

As for the crack about UNO being the Mavs, what is so great about being a Cornhusker?

Nothing. In fact, last year when the mighty (?) Cornhuskers were losing against Oklahoma (again) they embarrassed the entire state by having some idiot husk a cob of corn on national television.

It is not the matter of a dash or an "at" UNO's student senate is making a fuss about. It is actually being treated like the equal part of the system we are told we are.

— Gateway
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

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Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

OKAY CLASS. CAN SOMEONE TELL ME THE GOLDEN RULE?



PAUL DOMEIER

Stands need general admission

Today, University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials are trying to control overcrowding and alcohol consumption at football games in the east stands of Memorial Stadium.

Tomorrow, world peace. I'll give them better odds with world peace.

Every game, thousands of rowdy students leave their seats to pack around the 50-yard line and booze it up, inconveniencing less rowdy fans. The Nebraska-Washington game Sept. 21 was the final straw. Something must be done.

UNL officials say they will do something. Starting Oct. 19, ticket-holders who have seats in the north, south or west stands won't be able to get into the east stands. Certain gates in the east stands will have restricted access. Extra security will be hired.

It's admirable that those officials are moving to change the situation. However, they are moving in the wrong direction.

The situation in the east stands has deteriorated or advanced (take your pick) too far to get back to what it is "supposed" to be. The fans causing the problems enter the stadium by the appropriate gate and veer toward the center. They not only expect to do this when they enter the stadium, they expect to do this when they buy their tickets.

Those fans won't change. UNL officials aren't going to be able to get everyone back into the seat specified on the ticket.

I'm not concerned here with drinking. As long as UNL officially is a dry campus, alcohol must be forbidden. Most people would admit that fans who get so smashed that they can't watch the game and are getting sick might as well be removed.

But I don't think those officials really are talking about drinking, either. Drinking is only a serious concern in combination with overcrowding. Notice that all of the actions planned by UNL officials deal with overcrowding.

Maybe those changes are the best option for this year since the tickets already have been sold, but for future seasons, those officials would be better off conceding. The decivilization of the east stands should be controlled, not stopped.



With general admission student tickets, buyers would realize from the start that they must fend for themselves. It works for the bleacher seats at Nebraska basketball games.

Most obviously, since the east stands are de facto general admission, those tickets should be sold as general admission.

Each week, a couple hundred non-students buy student tickets, then try to sit in the seats named on the tickets. When a non-student finds an entire fraternity sitting in his seat, he gets upset.

With general admission student tickets, buyers would realize from the start that they must fend for themselves. It works for the bleacher seats at Nebraska basketball games.

The gates still could have restricted access to ensure only general admission tickets. The entire east stands could be made general admission. The reserved tickets near the top should be switched with the student sections in the end zones, so that no one can complain about spectators standing.

The east stands could become the stand-up section, the north and south stands joining the west stands as sit-down sections.

Marking the marching band section with metal railings instead of ropes would keep the crowd out of the band area. The general admission section could be separated from the rest by rails, too. After all, a zoo needs cages.

This is a crucial time to commit to

these changes. The university is cracking down on the east stands just as Nebraska shows glimpses of having a real college football crowd.

UNL police chief Ken Cauble told the Daily Nebraskan that the overcrowding problem became most apparent in the Washington game. The rowdiest crowd in years was at the Washington game.

That's not a coincidence. For once, most of the audience wanted to cheer loud and hard. The fans wanted to watch two great teams battle it out. They wanted to do this around the 50.

General admission seating would encourage this. The fans in the middle of the stands each game would be those who got there earliest. They would be devoted to the game, devoted to cheering. With a central core hyped for the game, perhaps the enthusiasm could spread.

And some day, off in the distant future, Memorial Stadium might have an entirely rowdy crowd cheering for the Cornhuskers. Tom Osborne wouldn't have to ask for noisy fans.

This plea doesn't stem from Go Big Red partisanship as much as it does from a love of spectator sports and that intangible "atmosphere."

There is something impressive about a large crowd, be it 15,000 or 70,000 people, acting in unison to cheer and support something.

Sporting events provide that. If a home team running back breaks into the open, everyone cheers simultaneously. When he is hit with a crushing tackle, everyone groans simultaneously.

This crosses all boundaries. People who hate each other in day-to-day life sprint across seats and over people to high-five each other.

It's as if, for a few brief hours, the real world actually has people breaking into the song and dance of an unrealistic Hollywood musical.

Soon people go to events for the atmosphere more than the sport. Nebraska volleyball has developed that kind of aura.

Cauble said the overcrowding turns the game into "more of a party atmosphere than a sporting event." That's the point. There shouldn't be any difference.

Domeier is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief and a columnist.