

ASUN casts out new constitution from law group

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

The Rutherford Institute Student Chapter, a group of UNL law students, will have to try again to get its constitution formally approved by ASUN.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's special topics committee Tuesday rejected RISC's constitution because it did not include sections required by ASUN and because of questions the committee had about the power granted to officers to remove members.

Heidi Putensen, chairman of the committee, said the constitution did not include required sections stipulating that the group must have at least five UNL students and that non-students may not vote or hold office in the organization.

She also said the committee needed clarification on article four, section two of the constitution.

The section states: "It shall be the prerogative of the elected officers to determine if and when a member exercises a derogatory influence within the chapter . . . Membership may be revoked by the issuance of a written request to the member . . ."

Putensen said the committee was concerned that the article might give officers too much power to remove members.

This rejection was the second time in two weeks that RISC's constitution was denied approval. The special topics committee had rejected it last week because of questions it had about the group's membership clause.

The possibility that the constitution was discriminatory had

been raised in the committee's review process, Putensen said.

Two areas in the constitution — article two, section two and article three, section one — were questioned, she said.

Section two of article two reads: "In furtherance of our commitment to supporting traditional family values, we stand in opposition to 'gay' rights legislation and other attempts to legitimize homosexual behavior. Therefore, we draw a distinction between 'sexual orientation' and sexual misconduct."

Section one of article three contains a sentence that states: "Said selections (of members) and appointments shall occur within the defined parameters of the purposes of this organization."

Andy Massey, ASUN president, decided that the sections were not discriminatory because they dealt with the group's purpose rather than the group's membership.

Putensen said RISC can resubmit its constitution for a third time. The group must add the required language and clarify sections in question or submit a statement explaining why it thinks the sections do not require changes, she said.

Wayde Pittman, president of RISC, said he was surprised by the second rejection of the group's constitution.

"This is an issue of free speech," he said. "Gay rights legislation is not something I am very interested in. Free speech is."

"I severely doubt that gay-rights advocates would disagree with unrestricted free speech," he said.

"I can only guess that ASUN does not agree with this (free speech)."

Event to focus on wheelchair access

By Adeana Leftin
Senior Reporter

Raising awareness about the challenges faced by people in wheelchairs is just the beginning of overcoming accessibility obstacles, an ASUN senator said Tuesday.

Teachers College Sen. Trent Steele said he hopes that after Wednesday's events, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska can begin

efforts to improve campus accessibility.

"Hopefully," Steele said, "this will get students, faculty, administration and the whole community to come together to overcome accessibility obstacles."

Wheelchair Wednesday kicks off today at 8 a.m. at Broyhill Plaza. From 8:15 to 9 a.m., those attending the event will participate in a group challenge.

The groups will be led by a person in a wheelchair through various accessibility obstacles on campus.

Many ASUN senators will be in wheelchairs, Steele said, while others will follow on foot.

Steele said the event will help understanding of the day-to-day obstacles of people in wheelchairs.

"We really don't know the obstacles they face unless we are in their shoes," he said.

Taking the GRE or GMAT?

Open Forum with **Eldon Park**
Program Director of Development and Outreach
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GRE, GMAT Tests Discussed
2:00-3:30 p.m., Thursday, October 24
City Union-Room Posted

Minority Student Open Forum
9:00-11:00 a.m., Friday, October 25
Culture Center
"Discussion of Standardized Tests and Access to Graduate Education"

Liberal Arts Major?

Open Forum with **Catherine McAward**
President, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill International

If you are majoring in English, speech communication or any liberal arts discipline, you will want to meet Catherine McAward. Ms. McAward has been a teacher, free-lance writer, editor and has experience in marketing and sales.

Making the Most of Your Degree
11:00 a.m. - Noon, Thursday, October 24
Culture Center

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POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday, Oct. 21




7:09 a.m. — False fire alarm, Walter Scott Engineering Center.

7:36 a.m. — Fence stolen, College of Dentistry, \$50.


12:40 p.m. — Vandalism to vehicle, window broken, parking lot east of Abel-Sandoz complex, \$75.

5:36 p.m. — Intoxicated man, Sheldon Sculpture Garden, transported to detoxification center, 721 K St. Arrested for possession of marijuana.

9:53 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, Walter Scott Engineering Center, \$300.

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