

ASUN to look at proposal to eliminate spending limits

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

ASUN again will consider the proposal to end spending limits and to lengthen the campaigning period for student elections at tonight's meeting.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska voted down the electoral commission's proposal



two weeks ago by a 12-8 vote.

Speaker of the Senate Andrew Loudon said the electoral commission did not receive any new ideas for election rules from senators who voted against the proposal.

Loudon said the electoral commission had a special meeting last Tuesday to hear senators' ideas, but no senators attended.

If the rules are not adopted tonight, ASUN's last meeting for the semester, the issue will be up in the air until next semester, Loudon said.

"We need to adopt the rules from a pragmatic standpoint," he said. "If there are no rules, no one can do

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ASUN Speaker of the Senate
Andrew Loudon

anything.”

In other business, ASUN will discuss a bill urging the Academic Senate's Grading and Exam Committee to scrap the idea of adding minuses to the current grading system.

The minus system would change the current grading scale, possibly lowering students' GPAs, Loudon said.

He said adding the minuses could hurt students' chances of getting jobs.

Students also have not had enough input on the issue, Loudon said.

"Students do not want minuses added to the grading system," he said.

The two ASUN representatives on the Academic Senate committee have not been kept informed about its meetings, he said.

Senator eyes child-support bill

Measure extends payments to ease cost of education

“Under the reauthorization, the big winners are the middle class. The single parent will also benefit.”

John Beacon
director of Scholarships and Financial Aid

By Jeff Zeleny
Staff Reporter

A bill that would require child-support payments to continue past the age of 19 would help students from single-parent families pay for their college education, a state senator said.

Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln said he might resubmit LB630, a bill he introduced last year in the Nebraska Legislature. LB630 would require child-support payments to continue up to the age of 22 for full-time college students.

Child support now ends at age 19, and non-custodial parents have no legal obligation to help fund higher education.

"I had a few women approach me who are custodial parents, and they were upset because they felt their ex-spouses were not making a fair contribution to the education costs of their children," Beutler

said. The bill was killed after a Judiciary Committee hearing last spring because of other priority bills, Beutler said.

"Certainly the property tax issue had much to do with it," he said. "There were a number of things going on; the Judiciary Committee was on overload."

A major concern with the bill last year was how the child-support payments would be made, Beutler said.

One revision Beutler said he would make to last year's bill was requiring the payments to be made directly to the college, rather than to the custodial spouse.

Beutler said he would discuss the issue with his constituents before deciding whether to re-sponsor the bill.

Some voters now have reservations about the bill, Beutler said.

"One of the fundamental objections is they don't feel the court system is evenhanded," he said. "They don't want anything that

gives more leverage to the custodial parents."

Most non-custodial parents are pleased to help fund the education, Beutler said, and think the bill is unnecessary.

Other states have laws similar to the one Beutler may propose. In states that do not require child-support payments past the age of 19, some judges order extended child support.

John Beacon, director of Scholarships and Financial Aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said federal assistance laws were reauthorized this summer to better accommodate people in need.

"Under the reauthorization, the big winners are the middle class," he said. "The single parent will also benefit."

But Beutler said such a child-support law was needed, and it eventually would be approved.

"Historically, it's an idea whose time will come," he said. "It's just a matter of time before it happens."

Budget

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Howe said he could not predict what Spanier would decide to cut, but he expected the chancellor to make his decisions and negotiate them with the college deans at the beginning of next semester.

The chancellor's cabinet intends to conduct these interviews every two years, whether or not a budget cut is being leveled, Howe said, to establish a biannual budgetary process.

But Howe said he was uncertain whether the university would be forced to accept deeper cuts in January.

"I think the university has done its fair share," he said.

If the state's budget cannot balance, Howe said, there were other government-funded agencies that could be inflicted with cuts.

Howe said the budget cutting process had been grueling.

"Let's just say it takes a lot of time," he said, "and when I get home at the end of the day, I'm tired."

Admissions

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with a course in any academic discipline.

In addition to completing the core courses, applicants either would have to rank in the top half of their high school graduating class or score at least 20 on the ACT or 850 on the SAT.

Current admission standards require students to have completed the 10-course core or rank in the top half of their high school graduating class.

Rowson said the second series of hearings probably would be the last, with input received from throughout Nebraska.

Public hearings on the proposed admissions standards are scheduled at the following locations:

- Nebraska City High School auditorium, Steinhart Park Road, Nebraska City, today at 7 p.m.

- Norfolk High School Little Theater, 801 Riverside Blvd., Norfolk, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

- Educational Service Unit #9, 117 E. South St., Hastings, Friday at 9 a.m.

- Whittier Conference Center, 310 W. 24th St., Kearney, Friday at 11 a.m.

- McKinley Education Center, 301 W. F Street, North Platte, Friday at 1 p.m.

- Lincoln Public Schools district offices, 5901 O St., Monday at 7 p.m.

- Bradshaw Public Schools district offices, 206 E. Jackson, Bradshaw, Dec. 9 at 9:30 a.m.

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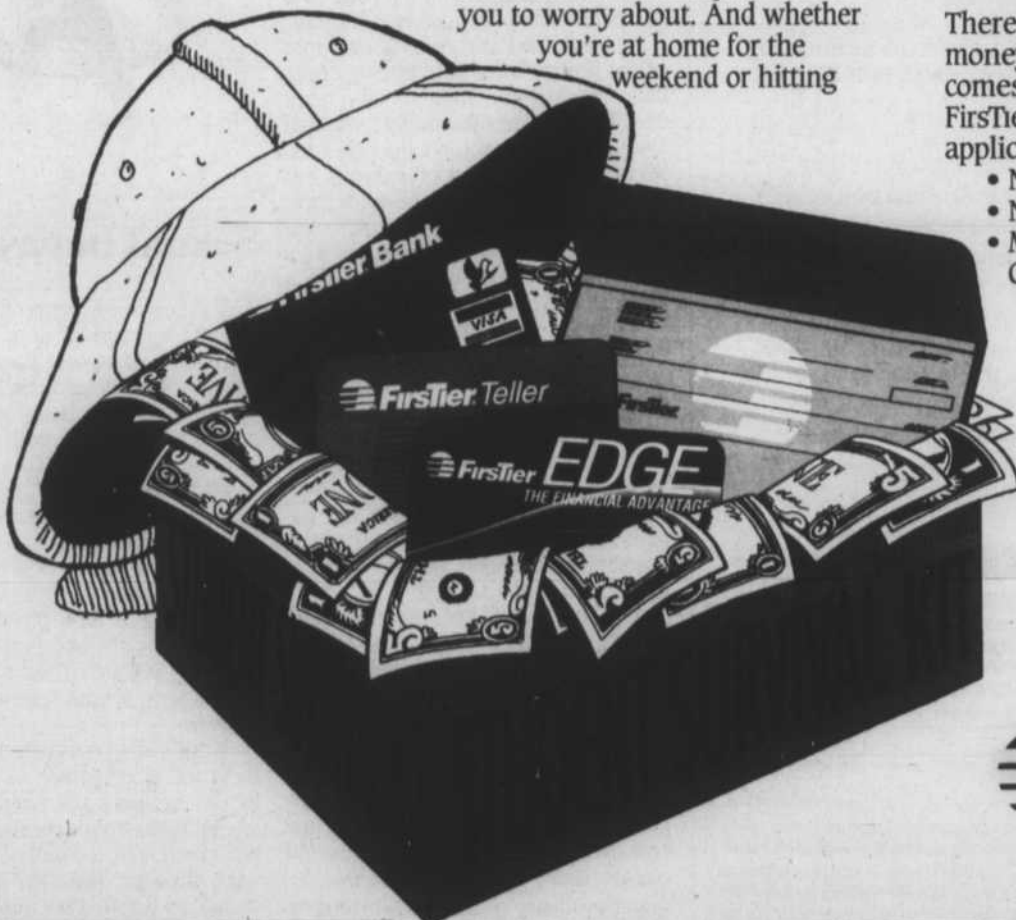
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