

Academic Senate urges committee to reconsider graduation prayer

Senator calls the resolution 'slap in the face'

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

The Academic Senate passed a resolution Tuesday urging the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Commencement Committee to reconsider its decision banning prayer from graduation.



The resolution, which passed with a voice vote, called for the committee to take into account recent decisions by the NU Board of Regents and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska that called for the invocation and convocation to be reinstated.

The resolution also asked the committee to consider Chancellor Graham Spanier's decision to hold a moment of silence at the December graduation ceremony.

Paul Finkler, physics and astronomy senator, said he considered

the resolution a "slap in the face" to the committee, which has considered the issue on two other occasions.

Leo Chouinard, math and statistics senator, said he did not think that was the case.

"We're not telling them to change," he said. But the committee should make a decision in light of the new developments, he said.

"We're not telling them to change."

*-Chouinard
math and statistics senator*

Trent Steele, ASUN liaison, said the committee should listen to students, whose opinion should be the overriding factor in the issue.

"The commencement ceremony belongs to them," he said.

ASUN voted unanimously with three abstentions last Wednesday to recommend that a group of graduating seniors form a committee to decide the issue.

In other business, Athletic Director Bill Byrne said he looked forward to good relations and communication between the athletic department and

faculty.

Byrne said the department would work to help college athletes make academics, not sports, their No. 1 priority.

Byrne said the department had many issues to deal with in the future, including gender equity, cost containment and improved marketing within the department.

He said he also wanted to increase the diversity of the staff and coaches.

Spanier also spoke to the senate, welcoming President Sally Wise in her new office after the resignation of former President Royce Ballinger.

Spanier also briefed the senate on issues facing the university.

He said enrollment was stable for the spring semester, but faculty might notice more competition for classes. Students enrolled in 1,800 additional credit hours this semester, he said.

Spanier said the university would also have to reallocate funds to deal with Gov. Ben Nelson's flat university budget proposal.

Spanier said he supported a modest salary increase for all university employees, regardless of their salary level.

Also, he said, the university is close to the final stages of hiring two new associate directors of affirmative action.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday
1:15 a.m. — Purse, wallet, tapes taken, parking lot at 13th and Q streets, \$186 loss, \$75 damage.
10:21 a.m. — Student taking 'No Smoking' signs, Love Library, turned over to Judicial Board.

5:26 p.m. — Tail lights broken, parking lot on 19th Street between R and U streets, \$150.

5:51 p.m. — Racquetball court door shattered, Campus Recreation Center, \$1,500.

8:02 p.m. — Bike stolen, Nebraska Union, \$3,725.

8:53 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, parking lot at 14th and Avery streets, \$75.

11:49 p.m. — Leather jacket, purse taken, parking lot at 13th and Q streets, \$334 loss, \$50 damage.

Director predicts trouble for students under stiff law

By Becky Becher
Staff Reporter

The director of UNL's Student Legal Services said she had not yet seen any students charged under new, stricter drunken driving laws, but she expected that to change.

"We get five or six DWI cases a month," Shelley Stall said. "DWI won't stop just because the laws change."

Under the new Administrative License Revocation law, which went into effect Jan. 1, drivers who exceed .10 percent blood alcohol content or refuse to take an alcohol test will have their licenses taken away by the arresting officer and be issued a 30-day temporary license.

"DWI won't stop just because the laws change."

*--Stall
director, Student Legal Services*

The driver then has 10 days to request a hearing before the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. If a hearing is not requested or the driver is found guilty, driving privileges are revoked for 90 days.

In addition to the license revocation law, Stall said, other penalties for DWI have increased.

Under the stiffer penalties for driving while under the influence, the maximum sentence for a first-time offender is 60 days in jail, a \$500 fine and a six-month license

revocation.

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said penalties needed to be strong enough to deter people from drinking and driving.

The new penalties will reduce drinking and driving "if people think before they drink, but once people start drinking they stop thinking," Cauble said.

Stall said students didn't think of the consequences of driving drunk, but that many students would be shocked to learn they could go to jail for DWI. The costs involved might also shock them, she said.

A private attorney may charge from \$500 to \$1,000 for representation.

However, any UNL student stopped in Lancaster County who has not been convicted of two prior DWI offenses can be represented free of charge by Student Legal Services, Stall said.

Stall said drunken drivers were dangerous and should be kept off the road, but she said she was unsure if license revocation and increased penalties by themselves would be effective.

Students need to be responsible when they drink and should plan ahead by having a designated driver, Stall said. Stall said she hoped students would avoid situations that would put them in a position where they could lose their licenses or go to jail.

Student Legal Services has published a handbook that includes a section explaining license revocation and the new penalties for DWI. It also explains students' rights. The handbook is free and will be available next week.

College

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said.

Richardson said he expected the larger magazine to be a bigger time commitment than the 20 hours a week he and Moncrief devote to the project now.

For example, the two students plan on taking a week to drive throughout the Midwest to distribute the magazine personally.

But Richardson said experience with the local magazine would help in dealing with future obstacles.

Production of the magazine was difficult at first, because neither partner knew how to deal with printer lingo or how to sell ads, he said.

But luck, hard work and business smarts came together for the publication of the first issue last August.

Hard work helped reduce production time from a month for the first issue to a week for the most recent one.

Moncrief said he and Richardson were able to charge competitive advertising rates by working out of Richardson's apartment.

"To keep costs low, we do 100 percent of the work ourselves," he said.

The two, who have known each other since grade school, said they complemented each other well: Richardson handles the journalistic aspects of the magazine, while Moncrief handles the business aspects.

While dividing the work between themselves may keep costs down, Richardson said, low profits mean money is not the main incentive for producing the magazine.

"As far as the hourly wage goes, it's small," he said.

But Richardson and Moncrief agreed the time, energy and money put into College Today was balanced by the fun and experiences.

"We just have fun with it," Richardson said.

The two have traveled to Elko, Nev., to do a feature story on gambling and to Ames, Iowa, for a review of the U2 concert.

Moncrief said he also valued the practical knowledge about marketing, journalism and advertising he gained from the experience.

"Anything they could teach me in a college course, I learned on the streets," he said.

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