



Lights out

Travis Heying/DN

Stephen Waltman of the Nebraska Union Maintenance Department replaces the lights above the front entrances of the union Tuesday morning.

Board planning forum to discuss smoking in union

By Matt Woody
Staff Reporter

Concluding that a pro-active approach was necessary in order to make its voice heard in the debate on a new smoking policy, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Union Board decided at its meeting Tuesday to seek input from the unions' patrons.

The board discussed scheduling a town hall-type meeting to get input from union patrons. The meeting probably would be held during the lunch hour, the union's busiest time, to get as much input as possible.

Although no date was set, Nebraska Unions Director Daryl Swanson said he expected the forum to be sometime in March.

"I think the path of least resistance certainly would be for me to do nothing, you to do nothing, let the university study take its course, and then we accept its findings," Swanson said to the board.

But, he said, it is the board's responsibility to determine what union users want and need.

The question is how to balance the rights of the smoker with the rights of the non-smoker, Swanson said. That may either be banning smoking or limiting it to designated areas, he said.

"If we accommodate smoking, we have to provide assurance that we will protect the rights of the non-smokers," he said.

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Bill targets minors driving drunk

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

One co-sponsor of a proposed bill intended to discourage minors from drinking alcohol and driving insists the legislation is not meant to pick on young people.

During the Legislature's Transportation Committee's hearing Tuesday at the State Capitol, nothing was offered to dispel her claim.

Sen. Connie Day of Norfolk, one of the bill's co-sponsors, said she thought the bill was important to let minors know they, too, pose a threat to themselves and others if they drive while under the influence of alcohol.

Under LB564, if a minor is caught driving with a blood-alcohol content level higher than .02 percent, his or her driver's license would be suspended for 30 days.

If the offense was repeated, the

license would be suspended for up to six months.

If the minor refused to take a sobriety test, he or she would automatically lose their license for 90 days.

"I think we send a very inconsistent message to young people when they're found to be driving with a .06 (blood-alcohol content level) and all we can do is turn our heads and say it's wrong," Day said.

Complaints that LB564 is targeting minors for unfair treatment already have begun to find their way to Day, she said.

"My 20-year-old son and I have had very intense discussion about this bill, and he's not in favor of it," Day said. "I'm sure not many minors would be."

Norman McPherson, regional supervisor of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said more than 3,100 minors die each year in alcohol-related traffic accidents.

Bob Schraeder, director of the Nebraska Alcohol and Drug Abuse

— “
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— Day
State senator

Council, said he thought the new law would be effective in lowering that statistic.

"Young people value their driver's licenses dearly," he said. "If they lost it, even for a month, it would impact them greatly. But it would make them think harder before drinking and driving."

Ronald Abdough, director of special programs for Omaha Mayor P.J. Morgan, said he supported LB564 because it "sends the right message."

"It's not a catch-all solution, or an answer for everything, but it's an important step and a possible deterrent," he said.

In a related bill, Sen. Thomas Horgan of Omaha introduced LB698, which would provide penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol when a minor is in the vehicle.

The bill, he said, would mirror legislation introduced in Illinois last year.

Under LB698, a driver convicted of DWI would receive an additional \$500 fine and sentence of five days of community service work if a minor was in the car at the time of the incident.

A second offense would increase the community service sentence to 10 days.

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Academic Senate votes support for chancellor in budget battle

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

The Academic Senate passed a resolution Tuesday supporting Chancellor Graham Spanier's effort to protect UNL's interests in the midst of proposed budget cuts.

Spanier said he would not stand by while the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee proposed to cut an additional 5 percent from the NU budget. Spanier said the proposal would cut the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's budget by about \$7 million dollars.

"My job is to lead this university forward, not backward," he said.

Spanier said the cuts would mean elimination of staff and faculty, whose salaries make up 80 percent of UNL's budget.

These cuts come on top of three successive budget cuts in past years.

But Spanier reassured the senate that the budget cuts probably would not mean a dramatic increase in tu-

ition for students. The NU Board of Regents is committed to keeping costs for students down, he said.

"I don't think our students will be affected in any profound way," he said.

— “
My job is to lead this university forward, not backward.
— Spanier
UNL chancellor

Academic Senate President Sally Wise said she thought the Legislature would take into account the position of the senate and the value of the education the university provided when making its final budgetary decisions.

"We need to help the citizens of the state understand the mission of the university," she said.

But Spanier said faculty and staff members should remember to concentrate on their current roles at the university and not to get "bogged down" with budget concerns.

Spanier also said the two positions

of associate director of affirmative action had been filled by Linda Crump and Ron Ross.

In other business, the senate passed a resolution asking the Curriculum Committee to meet with the executive committee to discuss the role of inclusiveness at UNL.

The senate originally had given the committee the issue to consider in November after the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women requested the inquiry.

Curriculum Committee Chairman Michael Stricklin said the committee had planned to use inclusiveness as an item that it would consider as it reviewed class proposals.

"It depends upon who you read and who you listen to," he said. "There's a wide variety as to what the term means."

Leo Chouinard, math and statistics department senator, said he was disappointed because the committee did not offer a concrete proposal.

Wise said the committee did not have a proposal because it misunderstood the senate's desire for direction from the committee about how to deal with the issue.

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WHEN: Thursday, February 18
7:00pm
WHERE: Nebraska Union

Attendance at this presentation is required to interview for the Summer/Fall '93 College Program. Interviews will be held on Friday, Feb. 19. The following majors are encouraged to attend: SUMMER—Business, Communication, Recreation/Leisure Studies, Hospitality/Restaurant Mgmt., Travel & Tourism, Theatre/Drama, Horticulture, Agriculture, and General Motors Co-op Program. FALL—All majors welcome.

For more information Contact: Career Planning & Placement
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