

OPINION

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EDITORIAL

No regulation

Commission should understand role

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's new executive director has a big job ahead of him.

David Powers, the former head of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board, on Wednesday was named to lead Nebraska's controversial commission that often has clashed with the University of Nebraska system.

In 1990, when the commission was approved by Nebraska voters, its mission was to oversee and prevent duplication in college and university programs.

Since then, its mission has strayed.

Bruce Stahl, former executive director of the commission, insisted the group had regulatory powers.

"Although we are coordinating, we are a regulating body," he said in April 1993. "That's hard for most people to understand."

The regulating part of the commission was, in fact, difficult to understand.

During last spring's legislative session, Nebraska state senators passed a bill to clarify the commission's role. The measure, which was signed into law by Gov. Ben Nelson, said the board's role should be that of an adviser, not a regulator.

Enough bureaucracy already exists in higher education. The NU system is regulated by the Board of Regents. And state colleges, community colleges and private institutions have their own respective controlling boards. There is not room for another regulating board.

Mr. Powers, now is the time for you to understand the commission's proper role — coordination.

In an interview, Powers said he would be gathering more information on education needs in the state, and forming guidelines to follow to meet those needs.

"My first job is to realize I am a catalyst and a facilitator between all of the leaders," he said.

A catalyst we can deal with. A regulator we cannot.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We try to develop a bond between people and plants. People may not be aware of it, but everyone benefits from being around plants."

— Bud Dasenbrock, director of UNL Landscape Services.

"This is not designed to just be a snoop for alcohol at parties."

— Ken Cauble, UNL police chief, on expanding the UNL community service officers' patrol to greek houses.

"Nobody wants to die. Everybody is waiting for a bright morning."

— UNL graduate student Abbas Ali on spending a year volunteering in war-torn Bosnia.

"We worked from 9 to 6 everyday, and we'd stay late a lot of the time. I realized how hard the congressional staffers work."

— ASUN President Andrew Loudon on his summer internship for U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1994 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish 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.

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Wake-up call'

As a former ASUN senator for the 1993-94 school year, I would like to take issue with Michelle Paulman on several of the points she made in her column in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan (DN, Aug. 24, 1994).

1) You state that "no one knows less than the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska." Pretty strong words for someone who devotes 10 paragraphs of her column to a can of refried beans. The fact is, ASUN senators spend a lot of time researching and meeting with the key people involved in the issues they face.

2) You cite the new NRoll system as an indication that UNL has gone "to heck in a handbasket." NRoll is the product of hard work on the part of your student government and other groups, and unlike yourself, I believe most students see it as a great improvement over the old system of drop/add.

3) You complain about the poor condition of Richards Hall and imply that ASUN is somehow responsible for its sad state. ASUN fought to give repairs to Richards Hall priority over the cost of tearing out the faculty parking lot and replacing it with grass.

4) You compared University Program Council programming and fraternity keggers, noting that neither of them appeals to everyone. There is one important difference between the two: UPC programs are paid for by student fees. Fraternity keggers, to my knowledge, are not.

ASUN keeps up the fight so UNL's budget won't receive further cuts, raising your tuition. Last year, they also worked to keep the price of your basketball tickets down and battled a change in UNL's grading system that you didn't want. And it was the same student government that you likened to an "ugly and rotten ... pile of beans" that established the memorial for Candi Harms and organizes Rape Awareness Week each year.

Perhaps it is you, Ms. Paulman, who needs to wake up.

Bill Snyder
senior
political science



Amy Schmidt/DN

Full house

The situation of our halls being full is not a "nightmare" nor is it a "dream come true." It is a direct result of being responsive to student needs. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln housing, along with the Residence Hall Association, has made great strides to make living in the halls better than living almost anywhere else.

The residence halls here provide food and maintenance services that apartments cannot provide. We provide security and desk services that other living arrangements can't provide. And the residence halls provide leadership opportunities and social and educational programs to complement classroom learning.

The apparent overcrowding did not upset first-year students' living arrangements. We had more first-year students than admissions had projected. All of the first-year students were placed. Any academic problems that a first-year student encounters will be a result of their lack of focus, discipline or desire to excel. It will not be housing's fault, because we provide computer facilities, study rooms, student assistants to talk to, and various time management and how-to-study programs.

It did affect those students who had moved away from all of the conveniences of residence hall life and later found out that the grass wasn't greener on the other side. We did stop taking upperclass applications; there were deadlines, and there are still people on the waiting list.

This situation is a positive one. It means we are doing our jobs, meeting students' needs and giving them more. And there is more in store for this year.

Rock on housing and RHA!

Andrea Casart
Residence Hall Association vice president

DU woes

Regarding Shane Tucker's parking problems, (DN, Aug. 23, 1994), it is obvious to this reader that his "opinion" was written only to elicit some response. Surely no student would be so ignorant as to diminish the administrative parking policy for 25,000 students to the woes of 15 Delta Upsilon members.

Tucker's comments on the green space prove he has not looked beyond the DU front door to acknowledge the fund allocation procedures for the university on such projects.

Andrew Budell
senior
political science

P.S. Write Back

The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.