

Leadership class samples UNL student government

From Staff Reports

Members of the Chancellor's Leadership class got a taste of how student government operates at an ASUN meeting Wednesday.



About 40 class members sat in on the senate's meeting and were invited to participate in committee meetings with senators of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska shortly before the meeting concluded.

Senators discussed their roles in committees with leadership class members and issues they dealt with this semester.

Class members were also given the opportunity to voice their concerns to senators.

The purpose of the committee

meetings was to give senators ideas for bills, said Judy Rishel, ASUN second vice-president.

Rishel said the interaction with members of the leadership class was beneficial to senators because it gave them a fresh perspective on issues that affect freshmen.

"(The class members) have been on campus for three months and are more aware of problems that new students face," she said.

Denise Cradick, assistant director for the Office for Student Involvement and administrator of the leadership program, said the meeting gave students an introduction to the process of student government at the university.

Cradick said the class, which meets twice a month and consists of first-year students selected from a pool of 2,000 scholarship applicants, had attended senate meetings before.

Gathering Place lends a hand

By Angela Quiring
Staff Reporter

Hungering for nourishment for the body, mind and spirit? According to its mission statement, the Gathering Place, 1448 E St., has all three.

Founded in 1982 as a meeting place for people of all faiths, the Gathering Place provides free meals seven days a week, from 5 to 6 p.m., for the homeless and disadvantaged.

Executive Director Jean Chilcoine said the evening meal program began in 1985 under the wing of the Lincoln Food Bank and has been expanding ever since.

A daily noon lunch program has been developed under a newly hired food program coordinator, and a job training program is in the works.

The first meeting of the advisory council to form the job training program will be on Nov. 18.

"Our hope is that both the noon lunch program and the soup kitchen will provide learning and employment opportunities," Chilcoine said.

The daily noon lunch program, which will provide food at a reasonable cost, will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The proceeds from the program, which is scheduled to open next Monday, will help support the soup kitchen.

Various other fund sources keep the Gathering Place operating. Community development grants, such as the McKinney Homeless grant, have funded recent and upcoming construction projects to improve the kitchen and pantry.

The local Cooper Foundation has funded new kitchen equipment. Private donations make up the rest of the budget.

Sponsorships for evening meals are sold to patrons for \$120, but they can be divided into monthly payments of \$10.

With only two full-time employees, Chilcoine and the recently hired food program coordinator, most operations depend on a volunteer work force that includes several University of Nebraska-Lincoln fraternities. Assistance from a group known as Daily Harvest allows food to be recycled from unused leftovers from local restaurants.

Besides food for the body, Chilcoine said, the Gathering Place's special programming nourishes the mind and spirit. One series invites people of different cultures to speak at meals coordinated with an ethnic menu.

"Food is the common link to connect people from all walks of life," Chilcoine said.

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