

OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Equity, please

Search underway for new CBA dean

A national search will soon be underway for a new dean of the UNL College of Business Administration.

Dean Gary Schwendiman's resignation announcement Monday means both good and bad news for the college.

During Schwendiman's 17-year tenure as dean, the college has grown physically, financially and educationally. Schwendiman can claim responsibility for many of these positive changes in CBA.

But in the past year, the positive aspects of the college — including the new 45,000-square foot addition — have been overshadowed by the lack of diversity and the questionable equality between men and women in the college.

Less than nine months ago, Schwendiman was at the heart of controversy regarding CBA's "chilly" climate toward women.

Schwendiman denied allegations that sexism was rampant in the college, detailed in a report done by a committee of the American Association of University Professors. He said the report was a "plot to disrupt the college."

Since last semester, the gender equity debate has quieted down. The memos and anonymous hate mail have stopped. But the lack of diversity in the College of Business Administration remains.

The upcoming national search is a perfect opportunity for university administrators to prove they indeed are committed to gender equity and diversity.

Training ground

NU should teach work-world skills

Friday, Nebraska business and university leaders met to see how working together could improve economic development in the state.

NU President Dennis Smith called the meeting saying partnerships between businesses and higher education were important to the states' future.

Yet, the two groups didn't agree completely on how this needed to be done.

Business leaders said the state lacked skilled workers and that NU graduates needed better basic training for the work place.

Smith said he was afraid the concept of higher education was being lost as demands for technical training increased.

"It's the skill of thinking" that higher education develops, Smith said in a Lincoln newspaper. "That's not a technical skill."

Both groups have a point.

Anyone searching for a job knows it's experience that counts.

Surprisingly, UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier reportedly suggested at the meeting that more students begin studying at community colleges to gain the technical training businesses desire.

This does not seem to be the best solution.

Technical institutions are vastly different from the university. Four years at one university should provide not only curriculum-based education, but a rich cultural experience.

The best solutions seems to be instituting well-developed internship programs that would give NU students both a quality broad education tempered by real world work experience.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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

Massey: NCLU wrong

David Moshman and Marlayn Cragun of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (DN, Nov. 16, 1994) state, "UNL should attempt to accommodate the beliefs of its employees by not assigning them responsibilities that are likely to pit their religious or philosophical convictions against their obligation as UNL employees ..."

Their letter appeared civil enough, but when closely analyzed espouses illegal activity by endorsing discrimination on the basis of religion.

They urge UNL administrators to make the decision of not assigning responsibilities. True non-discrimination would allow the faculty member to exempt him or herself from responsibilities they cannot carry out in good conscience.

Do we really want administrators to decide who is assigned positions of responsibility and influence based on what they see as "likely" to happen? Should not a person be given a chance before being prejudged as unworthy of receiving responsibility?

In an attempt to make discrimination on the basis of religion palatable, the NCLU hides it under the guise of "attempting to accommodate beliefs."

The fact remains that under the NCLU policy, UNL administrators would make decisions about individual faculty responsibilities based on that faculty member's religious and philosophical beliefs.

Religious liberty is a constitutionally guaranteed right; sexual orientation is not. Discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs is against federal and state law; discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is protected only by UNL policy — not law.

Is there a reason that UNL administrators are being encouraged by the NCLU to illegally discriminate on the basis of

religious beliefs by actively selecting them out of positions of influence? Has the NCLU adopted Shane Tucker's weighting system (DN, Nov. 15, 1994) where "sexual orientation could get a 10, gender and race could get a 9, non-Christian religions could get a 6 and Christians could get a fat zero"?

Before UNL administrators adopt the NCLU position, I would recommend that it be debated at the Academic Senate and all of the ramifications be explored.

Ray Massey
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Bret Gottshall/DN

Second Amendment

In response to Simon Liverani's column (DN, Nov. 17, 1994), I would like to say a few things. I don't know which county you come from, but the United States has a Bill of Rights, and in this Bill of Rights is something called the Second Amendment.

Just as the First Amendment protects your right to distort facts, the Second Amendment guarantees my right to "keep and bear arms." Some people, such as yourself, would like to conclude that this right belongs to a "militia" or police officers.

However, let's disregard your interpretation and see what our founding fathers thought of this right. James Madison said, "Arms in the hands of the citizens [may] be used at individual discretion ... in private self defense."

Also, George Mason said, "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials." And lastly, our first president, George Washington, was quoted as saying, "When firearms go, all goes."

Since you believe that more guns will cause more violence, I would like to give you a fascinating statistic from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Since Florida's concealed carry law took effect in 1987, (this makes it easier for Florida citizens to carry concealed guns) Florida's homicide rate has dropped 21 percent while the U.S. homicide rate has risen 12 percent.

Also, states that have concealed carry laws like Florida's have overall a 21 percent lower total violent crime rate, a 33 percent lower homicide rate, a 37 percent lower robbery rate and a 13 percent lower aggravated assault rate compared with states that severely restrict "concealed carry."

I'm happy to say that millions of Americans still believe in the underlying right of the Second Amendment. However, I'll admit, liberal media writers such as yourself have managed to criminalize the gun.

As for me, the more a government tries to restrict my gun rights, the less I trust that government.

There are a few governments that have and still prove that gun control does in fact work — just as Hitler or Castro.

Jeff Vogel
senior
biology

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.