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Loan delays complicate financial aid process

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

For some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, waiting for their spring student loan checks this semester has been like hearing "your check is in the mail."

John Beacon, director of scholarships and financial aid, said several factors contributed to the delay that caused some students frustration.

Freshman Jill Meyerkorth knows that frustration. She said she expected to pick up her loan check by Jan. 9. She's still waiting.

"It's a pain," Meyerkorth said. "I check back every day."

Beacon said the first factor causing the delay was an increase in the amount of money and applicants the office must handle with no increase in staff.

For the 1994-95 academic year,

the office received 17,000 applications compared to 13,900 in 1991-92. During that time, the office added only two staff members.

"We were already doing big business," Beacon said. "Now there is even more."

Recent changes in loan regulations have made qualifying for aid easier for students, he said.

For example, the number of unsubsidized loans increased tenfold, Beacon said, with total payments rising from \$648,000 in 1991-92 to \$6.75 million in 1994-95.

Most students waiting longer than expected were receiving spring-only loans, he said.

Most students receive one loan paid in two disbursements for the academic year, Beacon said.

Chris McDade, a UNL senior, said he had expected to pick up his check

before Jan. 8. But on Jan. 17, he was still waiting for his spring-only loan.

McDade said not receiving the check on time didn't inconvenience him, but this was the first semester his check had not come in when he expected.

Allowing students to borrow money for one semester at a time makes it easier for students to pay for those sessions, Beacon said, but it creates more loans for the financial aid office to handle.

The spring-only loans were released by banks on Jan. 9.

Beacon said the financial aid office had expected to process full-year loan checks by that date so it could concentrate on getting the spring-only loans out.

After this year, the tedious loan process will be done by computer, Beacon said.

The life of a loan

Loan applications are checked, rechecked, and checked again, passing through a minimum of four hands and two offices.

They are checked for such things as:

- Official information.
- Prior loan records.
- Financial aid transcripts from other institutions.
- The student's estimated budget for the loan.
- Reasonable academic progress.

After a final review of the student's loan record, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid sends the checks and a list of recipients to Student Accounts. The Student Accounts office rechecks the list to make sure they have all the checks before releasing any of them.

Jobs available to those who SEIC

UNL office helps to find the perfect one

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

Unless you're planning to spend your summer loafing on the beach, now is the time to start searching for a summer job or internship.

Although finding the perfect job — one you enjoy, one you can hold just for the summer and one that pays well — may seem impossible, but it can be done.

A good place to begin is deciding whether you want a job or an internship.

Lindy Nolan, student employment assistant for the Student Employment and Internship Center, said the two differed. An internship, paid or unpaid, usually offers a more professional experience, she said.

During an internship, interns should be treated as if they can do a professional's job after some on-the-job training, she said. An internship is similar to what once was called apprenticeship, Nolan said.

An internship gives students ex-

perience doing the job they want after graduation, but for less or no pay and for a shorter amount of time, she said.

According to the SEIC office, about half of the internships available are paid. Employers may take a more serious look at graduates who have had internships, Nolan said.

Although internships may not pay as well as regular summer jobs, the experience probably would make up for the lower wages, she said.

A job, on the other hand, usually involves clerical work or physical labor, and employees are not treated as professionals, Nolan said. However, a job almost always pays more than an internship, she said.

Students often are split over whether they want an internship or a job, and sometimes they just take what they can get, Nolan said. The best time to start hunting for either is in January, she said.

Jaimee Hagen, a senior advertising major, said she found an unpaid internship doing promotional advertising for LaDell Stonecipher, a freelance artist, through the SEIC office.

"I need an internship — a paid

"I need an internship — a paid one."

JAIMEE HAGEN

UNL senior advertising major

one," Hagen said.

She said she visited SEIC once a week to search for new opportunities. The SEIC library is easy to use, she said, even though advertising or marketing internships are scarce. SEIC helps about 300 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students find summer work each year, Nolan said.

Internships are listed in 345 Nebraska Union. The office also has a library that shows internships not posted. SEIC employees can also provide contact names for companies.

The student job board on the third floor of the union gives short descriptions of on- and off-campus jobs, both part-time and work study. SEIC also provides a job line, where job openings are given over the phone by calling 472-8800.

Despite NRoll, some colleges try to retain adviser contact

By Beth Narans
Staff Reporter

Students in UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications are being reminded of the importance of consulting their academic advisers.

They are being asked in their journalism classes to sign forms agreeing that they accept responsibility for their own academic programs. The forms strongly encourage students to visit their advisers.

Before the installation of NRoll, journalism students were required to have an adviser's signature on their registration worksheets.

But now that type of control would be difficult to maintain, said Associate Dean Linda Shipley. The purpose of handing out the forms, she said, was so students knew that meeting with their advisers still was recommended.

"We still want them to come in, but if they opt not to, it's still their responsibility," she said.

The UNL Student Handbook, now out of print, contained a statement that made students aware of how important it was to see an adviser.

Much of the handbook information was transferred to the Undergraduate Bulletin when the handbook went out of print, but the statement about advising was not.

Starting with the fall 1995 semester, a statement will appear in the bulletin informing all students of their advising responsibilities.

The journalism college was concerned that if students stopped seeing their advisers, problems could arise. It was anticipation of problems, Shipley said, rather than a list of

actual problems, that prompted the department to distribute the form.

"Sometimes students don't understand the importance of seeing an adviser, but understanding the bulletin by yourself isn't always easy," she said.

In the Teachers College, students are handed a form when they enroll in the program. It states the responsibilities of the students on one half of the page and the responsibilities of the adviser on the other half.

Angela Smith, director of advising for the Teachers College Student Service Center, said the handout was part of a nationwide move to encourage advising and help students become more independent.

Advisers are not there just to write down a list of classes the students must take, she said, but are a part of learning. Students still have to take the initiative for their course work, she said.

Elizabeth Grobsmith, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, said courses and requirements were constantly changing, and if students wanted to be aware of new options, they had to keep in contact with their advisers.

"This is a huge university, and each college has its own requirements," she said. "It's very complex. Students need to be sure they are getting advice to meet the requirements and not just going off on their own."

Grobsmith said she knew of no colleges besides the journalism and teachers that had handouts to inform students about their advising responsibilities. She said CBA had a similar policy, but printed it in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

O.J. Simpson trial update

Call for live hourly updates while court is in session. The court is expected to be in session Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. EST. The last report of the day will be a wrap-up at about 5:25 p.m., EST and will continue playing until the first new update of the day becomes available at 12:25 p.m. Stay on the line if you would like to hear a previous report or the last wrap-up report.

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Jeremy Kilburn
Manager, Amigos
Manhattan, KS

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attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. When he graduated in December of 1992 he was receiving the maximum tuition reimbursement.

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