

New drop/add policy saves students money

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

A new drop/add policy allows students to drop a class up to 12 weeks into the semester without an instructor's approval.

Previously, students could drop without permission only until the eighth week.

But students who take advantage of the new policy after the second week will receive a "W"—meaning withdrawal—as a grade for the course. In the past, a student would receive a "W" only if they dropped after the eighth week.

The new policy was approved at an Academic Senate meeting last spring, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs. That was the same meeting where a proposal for a plus/minus grading system was rejected.

"Not a lot of students realized it had changed because attention was more focused on the plus/minus

grading policy," Griesen said. Students considering a late withdrawal may wonder just how damaging a "W" on their transcripts would be.

The 1994-95 Undergraduate Bulletin states that "the 'W' grade will appear on the student's academic record but will not affect GPA."

"I think it doesn't matter too terribly much," Griesen said. "It's more of encouragement for students to get their dropping of courses out of the way early in the semester."

In changing the policy, officials had students' pocketbooks in mind, he said. If students wait to drop a class until after the eighth week, they forfeit all fees and receive no refund.

"This is a good policy because it will also save students' money," Griesen said. "They'll do all dropping right now, and it will save them money in the long-run."



Travis Heying/DN
Nicol Savoy stands before Theta Xi Fraternity, where she is housemother. At 25, Savoy is about half the age of the average UNL housemother.

Young housemom earns respect

By Patty Wewel
Staff Reporter

Nicol Savoy, 25, is the mother of 45 college men—the housemother that is.

Savoy is Theta Xi Fraternity's new parental figure, and it's a role she's held before.

Last year, Savoy was a housemother at the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

While some may raise their eyebrows at a 25-year-old woman living in a fraternity house, fraternity members such as Matt Geer say Savoy is nothing but professional.

Geer, a junior advertising major, said at first he thought the Theta Xi men might hit on Savoy or be otherwise disrespectful.

But after meeting Savoy and seeing her approach to the job, Geer said, he knew there wouldn't be any problems.

Savoy said she had only received respect from the Theta Xi men and also doesn't foresee any problems.

In the beginning, there was apprehension. Theta Xi President Brian Murphy said he remembered the day he first came across Savoy's application.

He was concerned about how others would perceive a housemother living in the same house with men only a few years younger than she. And he was concerned about how the men in the house would accept her, he said.

But Savoy's resume was impressive, he said. After looking through nearly 20 applications, he felt Savoy was the most qualified for the job.

Any other reservations about Savoy, Murphy said, were put to rest after he and an alumnus interviewed her.

"She lived up to her resume and more," Murphy said.

The job description of "housemother" varies from fraternity to fraternity and housemother to housemother, Savoy said. In general, she said, a housemother works to ensure that the house functions in a healthy manner.

Savoy said she wanted to be involved—to take part in everything from cleaning house to philanthropy projects.

"I feel that I'm here to help, basically," Savoy said. "I'm not here to sit in my room and twiddle my thumbs."

She even loves to edit papers, she said—a fact she has yet to share with the men of the Theta Xi house.

Although the average age of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln housemother is about twice Savoy's age, she said her age didn't interfere with her job. It can even be an asset, she said.

Savoy, who graduated from UNL in May 1994, said she could empathize with college students.

"I know where they are coming from. I see them doing things I have

done myself," said Savoy, who is currently a graduate student in administrative arts at Doane College in Crete. She holds a 4.0 grade point average.

Theta Xi member Bob Brakenhoff, a senior architectural landscaping major, said he was more at ease with the younger housemother.

And Geer agreed that a younger housemother could better relate to the men in the fraternity.

"She's old enough to keep control," he said, "but young enough to relate interpersonally with us."

Savoy said it upset her when people assumed she was too young to be a good housemother. Sometimes she feels she has to prove herself with the other housemothers, she said.

Savoy said she didn't want other housemothers to see her as a 25-year-old, but rather as a good housemother with experience.

For a housemother, it's personality that is important, she said, not age.

Her laid-back personality is one of the keys to her success, she said.

"Nothing shocks me," she said.

Maturity, she said, is also important. Savoy said she worked to present herself in a professional matter.

Being a housemother is rewarding, she said. Savoy said she liked helping people and getting involved in student services.

"In general, if I'm helping someone and they're making progress from my guidance, that's rewarding for me."

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