

ASUN to fight tuition hikes

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

Potential tuition increases and the selection of chairpersons for newly formed senate committees were the focus of Wednesday night's meeting of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

The possible tuition increases are a result of Gov. Ben Nelson's recent veto of \$2 million of the \$5 million that the Legislature recommended for University of Nebraska salary increases.

The university originally sought \$7 million for the salary increases, but this figure had been lowered to

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ERIC MARINTZER
ASUN president

\$5 million by the Legislature. ASUN President Eric Marintzer said he thought a legislative override of the governor's veto was unlikely.

With the fate of student tuition increases to be decided after the ASUN senate concludes its 1995-1996 session, Marintzer said he

thought ASUN would stay busy with the issue during the summer.

"I will do my absolute best and hope that all you senators will as well to keep tuition increases at a minimum," he said.

In other ASUN news, chairpersons were chosen for the ASUN committees.

● Bronson Riley, a College of Arts and Sciences senator, will head the academic committee.

● Viet Hoang, a College of Business Administration senator, will head the special topics committee.

● Anna Harms, a College of Journalism and Mass Communications senator, was chosen as human rights chairwoman.

● Tammi Reichel, another College of Business Administration senator, was chosen as communications chairwoman.

Abortion

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Right to Life on the issue but did not feel there was enough support from the Legislature for a special session.

But Troutman did not rule out the possibility.

"If they (Metro Right to Life) can give our office some indication that there are 30 senators who support it, he would consider calling one," Troutman said.

The controversial method is technically called the D and X (Dilation and Extraction) abortion and is performed by only six physicians in the country, one of whom practices in Bellevue.

Dr. LeRoy Carhart is under investigation by Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg for possibly performing the controversial procedure.

Stenberg said in a statement he would seek the help of the Department of Health in determining whether Carhart's procedure violated state law.

It is a felony in Nebraska to perform an abortion after viability, which in most cases is 24 weeks.

Viability is defined as the stage of human development when a baby is able to live longer than momentarily outside the womb.

The procedure in question involves removing the fetus feet-first, then inserting an instrument into the skull to empty the cranial cavity, killing the fetus.

But in a statement released late Wednesday, Carhart said he did not perform the same procedure the vetoed bill would prevent.

"Neither the veto of the bill nor the bill itself would in any way impact upon my medical practice," he said. "All of my terminations after 17 weeks post-conception are done on fetuses that are non-viable, are not living, and are thus unable to be aware of the procedure or any pain."

Carhart said, in a phone interview from his practice, the Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska, that the Stenberg investigation was merely for political publicity.

"Whether he investigates or not, it will be for whatever he can gain for his political campaign."

Stenberg is seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

Metro Right to Life Vice Chairman Bob Banks said the issue was important enough for the governor to call the special session.

"There is so much sentiment to ban the procedure," Banks said. "Support to outlaw it should be overwhelming from senators."

It would take 40 signatures to extend the 1996 session, which is scheduled to end today, and 33 signatures to call a special session.

Anti-abortion advocates were surprised when they learned the procedure was performed in Nebraska, Banks said.

He said anti-abortion groups had been following the bill in Washington by watching televised committee hearings on C-SPAN.

In those hearings, Banks said, they were able to see what the procedure was really like.

"To watch that and imagine it happening in Bellevue is such a shock — we believe it needs to be dealt with immediately," he said.

Lincoln Sen. Don Wesley said that although the issue might be important, he did not expect enough senator signatures to OK a special session.

"Special sessions are for emergency issues that can't be looked at months down the line," he said.

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