

# Safety Walk sheds some light

**Areas around Avery Hall and the Lied Center were found to be problematic.**

**By SARAH BAKER**  
Staff Reporter

The preliminary results of problem areas found at the annual Spring Safety Walk were presented at Tuesday's Parking Advisory Committee.

The primary areas the committee was concerned with were the dim diagonal walkway north of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts and the west entrance of Avery Hall.

"The lighting throughout City Campus was consistently good overall," construction management professor Linda Swoboda said.

Swoboda said she was also con-

cerned with some of the lights being "subdued." She said she wanted to look into either installing some different varieties of light, such as up-turned lights like those near the Torn Notebook sculpture located at the corner of 12th and Q streets, or replacing some light fixtures with higher-watt bulbs.

Tad McDowell, manager of parking and transit services, said he was interested in looking into having night aerial photographs of the campus taken and overlaying the photographs with a sidewalk grid to see where the actual dark spots are located.

"Aerial photographs would take people's perceptions of darkness out of the lighting considerations," McDowell said. "Some spots seem darker than they are because the areas around them are well-lit."

McDowell was unsure of the cost and availability of night aerial photography, but he said he is thinking about looking into the process for the

campus.

The committee also presented the sketch of the 1997-98 University Parking Permit. McDowell said the committee decided on the elliptical shape for the permits, similar to this year's.

"We have tried different designs and shapes in the past," McDowell said. "The round shape has received the least complaints about shape and has also received less counterfeit attempts."

The new permits will feature a black and white sketch of the tower on Love Library and will be the same colors as the 1996-97 permits. The hologram portion of the permit will be shrunk down to a small red "N" at the bottom of the pass.

The 1996-97 passes featured a bigger hologram that covered a larger portion of the permit. McDowell hopes the counterfeiting of permits will continue to decline, as this year there was only one attempt of a student trying to make a fake pass.

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# Admission standards rise for '97 freshmen

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take.

The others are deferred and denied admission to UNL for fall 1997.

Griesen said the university has not placed a cap on the number of students to be admitted, and UNL would have a place for any student who meets the new admissions requirements.

But statistics show a direct positive correlation between a student's academic preparation in high school and their performance at UNL, Griesen said.

The new requirements reflect a 1992 study by the UNL Admissions Policy Advisory Committee on the average grade-point average of students who took a certain number of college preparatory classes in high school.

Notably, the study shows students completing four or more years of math in high school had an average GPA of 2.94 for their first semester, fall 1991.

Student completing two or fewer years of math had an average GPA of 1.92 — more than one point lower. Four years of high school math is now a requirement for automatic admission; the old math requirement was two years.

Griesen said other requirements show similar, striking correlations between students' high school academic achievement and their first semester GPAs.

A higher quality and success rate of UNL students is expected to soon raise the number of applicants to the university, he said.

But word of mouth about more difficult admissions requirements has kept the number of applicants for this fall lower than usual, he said. By March 25 of this year, 934 fewer students applied to UNL, compared to the number of applications at the same time last year.

Schmidt said the dip in the number of applicants was disappointing but expected.

Jack Crowley, a guidance counselor at Lincoln High School, said most of the school's students who applied to UNL were "quite aware" of the new admissions standards and were well prepared to meet them.

Students with more deficiencies were advised to attend Southeast Community College before applying to UNL. Despite this advice, Crowley said he did not see a significant dip in the number of students applying to UNL from Lincoln High.

Schmidt said the dip was real, but the number and quality of applicants should rise again in fall 1998, partly because the new requirements will mean a rise in the university's prestige.

More top-notch students will then find UNL appealing, she said, because the strength of the new freshmen will begin to be reflected in statistics widely used to measure the desirability of attending a university.

Such statistics include the percent

of students admitted who graduate, the percent of students who stay in school and the percent of applicants admitted.

"Some very talented students aren't interested in applying somewhere where everybody gets in," she said.

Griesen used the University of Wisconsin as an example. Each time the school has raised its admissions standards, its number of applicants has risen, he said.

When the Board of Regents first considered adopting higher admissions standards, members said they worried such a raise in standards would make the university elitist, when the university strives to serve all Nebraskans, Griesen said.

But Nebraska's new standards are not in place to foster elitism, he said.

Schmidt said the university will measure the success of the new standards by the success of its students — mainly by the number of students who stay at UNL and graduate.

To help students succeed, Moeser said UNL will work harder to focus on students becoming better in all aspects of university life, not only academics.

The university at one time concentrated on helping students succeed in their personal and academic lives, he said. But the relationship between the university and its students changed in the 1960s and 1970s, and UNL "lost (its) focus on students."

The university was experiencing rapid growth, he said, and students were demanding more autonomy. The university then moved away from its role as students' parents.

Students needed the freedom, Moeser said, and it was important the university recognized them as adults.

UNL somewhat gave up its role in creating good citizens and lifetime learners, instead of only giving students new knowledge, he said.

The new admissions standards will help UNL in its efforts to "return to (its) roots," Moeser said.

The out-of-class experience will be treated as a more essential part of students' college careers, he said. The university will attempt to address more student issues, he said, including tolerance and respect, personal integrity, drugs, alcohol and sex.

The university also will work on the "major challenge" of allowing students more opportunities to complete undergraduate research outside of their course work.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney have also adopted the new admissions standards, with the exception of the math requirement.

The new admissions standards will allow academic success to become more common and expected from all NU freshmen, Moeser said, and UNL will move forward as a world-class university with world-class students.

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