

King vote divides UNL faculty, students

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it's the first step in the direction toward creating a better academic climate for minorities on our campus," ASUN First Vice President Amy Rager said.

ASUN also passed a bill in support of the proposed fall break.

Gerard Harbison, professor of chemistry and a member of the Academic Senate, said many senators were against the King holiday for logistical reasons.

"If we have an uneven number of days in one week of labs, it forces us to cancel the labs for the entire week," Harbison said. "We have discussed other options, such as putting labs into dead week. If students really want to celebrate King's birthday, are they willing to have labs into Dead Week?"

Jim Ford, Academic Senate president, said there were numerous reasons behind the senate voting down the

proposals.

"Many of the senate members want to do something in celebration of Dr. King's birthday, but they just don't think taking off work for the day is the right thing," Ford said.

Wednesday the Academic Senate executive committee met and passed a motion to start a committee that would plan ways to celebrate King's birthday, Ford said.

"The committee is looking at some other options, such as speakers, music or in-class activities to celebrate Dr. King," Ford said.

Rager said she didn't know whether the committee would achieve its goal in honoring King.

"It's a noble idea for professors to say they would have class time to discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but in reality, I believe very few professors would follow through with it," Rager said.

Instead of in-class activities, Rager said, ASUN wanted to work with the Afrikan People's Union and other minority student organizations to create a "civil rights day," where students and staff could celebrate King's legacy.

ASUN President Curt Ruwe said the Academic Senate offered the opportunity for one student to sit in on the newly formed committee dealing with King's birthday.

However, he questioned if the committee would have been formed if it were not for the debate surrounding the Academic Senate's decision.

Both the Academic Senate and ASUN votes will be presented to a universitywide calendar committee.

The calendar committee consists of two faculty members from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The committee votes on the proposals to add a fall break and a King holiday, and presents its decision to the NU Board of Regents for its final approval. A majority vote, including five of the eight members of the committee, is necessary for the proposals to reach the regents.

The calendar committee will vote on the proposals Nov. 17.

Leo Sartori, physics and astronomy professor and a member of the Academic Senate and the calendar committee, said he was disappointed in the senate's initial reaction.

"I really expected the motions to pass," Sartori said. "I think (the proposals) failed not because the senate was racist, but because they felt there were better ways to commemorate the day."

Sartori said although he still favors the original proposals, he will vote against them.

"I have a moral obligation to vote the same as the rest of the senate," he said. "I think with the support of all the students we may be able to change some minds through discussion of all our options."

Sartori said the feelings of both the students and faculty members are taken into consideration, by the committee, when voting.

"The differing opinions is some-

Big 12 School Results

Results following the proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. student holiday. No school voted for a fall break.

	Yes	No
University of Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Tech University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas A & M University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa State University	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
University of Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baylor University	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
University of Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas State University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma State University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

JON FRANK/DN

thing that we are going to have to wrestle with," he said.

To gauge student opinion about the fall break and the observance of King's birthday, ASUN has conducted surveys, Rager said.

Of the 439 surveys ASUN had compiled by Tuesday, 92 percent of students supported both of the breaks.

Ruwe said ASUN would continue to survey students and write letters to regents and members of the calendar committee. He said ASUN would sponsor a forum Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union for students to voice their opinions on the breaks.

Sartori said the calendar committee also surveyed 52 schools in UNL's peer group - schools which are of similar size and prominence - and out of those schools, 42 celebrate King's birthday as a holiday.

Besides UNL, Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and Baylor University in Waco, Texas, are the only Big 12 schools that do not hold classes on King's birthday. None of the schools has a fall break.

"I think if all of those schools manage to observe the day and not ruin class-scheduling processes, we should be able to do so also," Sartori said.

Other NU system schools have also been discussing the possible breaks.

UNK student body President Bryan Reichmuth said his campus supports the proposal.

"It's a national holiday, and so we

figure why not celebrate it?" Reichmuth said.

Jason Winterboer, UNO student senate president, said UNO had researched fall break, and he thought UNO's student senate will support it. He said they have not considered the King holiday, although he is in "full support" of both the breaks.

UNMC calendar committee member Jeanie Ferbrache said only the students in the nursing and graduate schools are affected by these proposals.

Other members of the calendar committee are grappling with the decision on how they will vote.

Earl Hawkey, a member of the calendar committee and director of registration and records at UNL, said he would side with the Academic Senate while considering his vote.

"I weigh the faculty's opinion heavier than that of the students," Hawkey said. "But my main role is to represent the campus."

Ruwe said he thought the calendar committee should consider the voice of the students.

"I think it's important for (the calendar committee) to weigh the opinions of students and faculty at least evenly, if not more in favor of students."

"We'd have no university without the students, and of course we'd also not have any university without the professors, but in large part, tuition pays the faculty's salary. It's very important for members to keep student opinion in mind," Ruwe said.

Leslie Bell, president emeritus of the Afrikan People's Union, said it was disheartening that not all members of the Academic Senate were present at the original vote.

"This issue is so demanding, it deserves the recognition of everyone who sits on the senate," Bell said.

One-third of the 92 faculty members on the Academic Senate were not present at Tuesday's meeting.

Bell said that some professors' arguments against taking a day off for the King holiday did not "override the necessity to celebrate the holiday."

"It behooves us to pay respect to such a great man. He did so much for a percentage of the university - for everyone. He made strides toward understanding equality that helps everyone," Bell said.

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Trees totaled by storm

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ern and south central Nebraska counties suffered severe damage while trees in 20 other counties suffered damage from the wet snow clinging to leaves that still haven't fallen.

"It's the worst damage I've ever seen," said Gary Hergenrader, a state forester for 16 years.

The Forest Service said that nearly half of the trees damaged in the 18-county area were large trees, trees that were 17 inches or more in diameter.

Thirty to 40 percent of those large trees will require significant pruning, another 30 to 40 percent will require major pruning to avoid safety hazards and the remaining 10 to 15 percent will be removed, some immediately, some during the next few years, the Forest Service said.

But Wurdle said individuals shouldn't automatically chop down trees in their yard just because they're damaged.

"Not every one of those trees is damaged to the point where it needs to be cut down," he said. "A lot are being cut down that quite frankly do not need to be cut down."

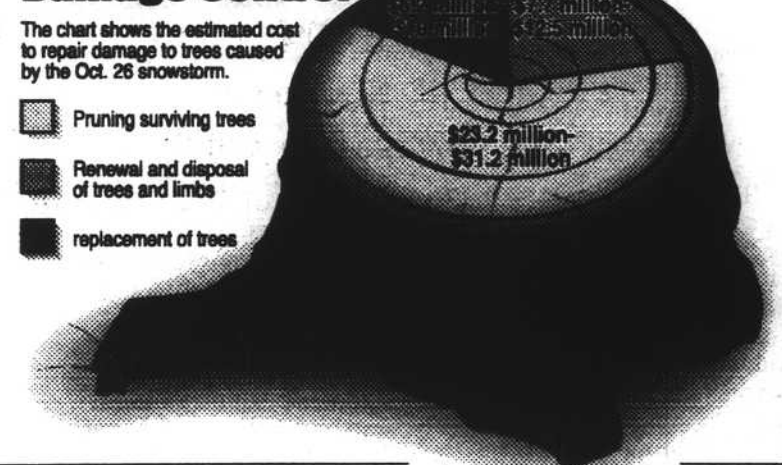
Said Hergenrader: "Look beyond the broken limbs."

The cost of clearing streets and making public parks safe will be paid for by public funds, Wurdle

Damage Control

The chart shows the estimated cost to repair damage to trees caused by the Oct. 26 snowstorm.

- ☐ Pruning surviving trees
- ☐ Renewal and disposal of trees and limbs
- ☐ replacement of trees



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

said, but since residential areas were also hardest hit, homeowners with damaged trees will have to fork out their own cash.

"For some folks it will be very difficult to pay for their cleanup," he said. "This is not a small problem."

"This is not a good thing at any time of the year, and certainly not before the Christmas holiday season."

But the monetary damage was nearly secondary, Wurdle said, to the damage done to communities' appearance.

"What it's done to the appear-

ance of some of our parks and residential areas is serious," he said. "We were used to sitting under the shade of trees planted by our grandparents."

But even with huge damage estimates and the years of work and tree planting needed to get some communities looking like their old selves again, Wurdle still could see a bright side.

"It's certainly not a good situation, but it's definitely something we can recover from," he said.

"It looks better now than it did the day after the storm, and it will look better a year from now."

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