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Fees will face final vote

■ If approved, the increase would fund student services and renovation.

By BRAD DAVIS
Senior Reporter

UNL students will dig deeper into their pockets and pay 16 percent more in student fees next year if the NU Board of Regents approves it Saturday.

Regents will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Varner Hall on East Campus.

Earlier this spring, student government's Committee for Fees Allocation set student fees to increase from \$494 to \$620 per school year.

Included in the increase is a \$20-per-semester charge for renovations to the Nebraska Union.

Drew Miller, University of Nebraska regent from Papillion, said he would follow students' recommendations to increase the fees, which help fund student organizations, student services and building improvements.

In the past, Miller has refused to support many fund increases for renovations on campus.

"They're the ones paying the fees, and they came up with the recommendation," he said.

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said although she had not reviewed the proposal in detail, she was inclined to vote for the increase.

"Sixteen percent seems high, but if it's for union expansion fees, the feedback we got from students was supportive of that fee," O'Brien said.

But Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill said because he is concerned about the affordability of higher education, he will vote against the proposal.

Hassebrook said he has voted against the union renovation and expansion since it was first discussed and will continue to do so.

He didn't feel bound by the student referendum that passed in favor of the expansion, he said, because most students didn't participate in the 1995 vote.

"We're piling more and more on student fees, and ultimately (we will) make it harder and harder for many students from moderate-income families to afford higher education," he said.

Despite Hassebrook's dissent,

Regents

regents historically have voted for fee increases related to the union's expansion.

Regents approved a student referendum vote in 1995 to start taxing themselves this fall for the union renovations.

Also Saturday, regents will decide whether Burger King will continue to reign in the Nebraska Union.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators are presenting a proposal to extend Burger King's lease there for five years.

Horizon Food Service, Inc., which operates the Burger King franchise, has sold fast food in the union since 1987.

O'Brien said such proposals are typically passed by the board.

Administrators have examined many factors in making the proposal, including polling student preference and conducting taste tests, she said.

"By the time it gets to the board," O'Brien said, "we assume (administrators) have done their homework."

Sleep deprivation a common problem

By TED McCASLIN
Staff Reporter

For some students, their class notes could best illustrate the problem.

"The War of 1812 occurred in" appears in clear text. Then the letter "o" slurs into an "h." After that, the writing stops.

And, the notebook page is stained with drool.

Getting enough sleep can be difficult for college students, and "spacing" in class helps them gain lost sleep, said Leigh Heithoff, who manages Lincoln General Hospital's Sleep Physiology Center.

Students should make sleep a higher priority, Heithoff said.

"One needs eight hours of sleep to operate optimally," Heithoff said.

They can start this week - National Sleep Awareness Week, which coincides with the beginning of daylight-savings time on Sunday.

The National Sleep Foundation recommends at least eight hours nightly, but a 1998 foundation poll found 64 percent of Americans get less.

And lapses in class notes are not the

only danger of sleep deprivation.

A poll conducted by the foundation found 28 percent of those surveyed had fallen asleep at the wheel of a motor vehicle in the past year.

"What people don't realize is that more young people die while driving drowsy than in alcohol-related accidents," Heithoff said. "Crash in bed instead."

Lack of sleep also can result in reduced academic performance, she said. In fact, Heithoff said it would be better for students to get a full night's sleep and take the exam than to pull an all-nighter.

"I know I'll get some calls on this one," she said.

Students sometimes use caffeine to put off sleep. However, Heithoff recommends cutting out caffeine after 2 p.m.

Caffeine continues working to inhibit deep sleep for eight hours after consuming it.

Carol Ash, a health promotions specialist at the University Health Center, said when sleep problems continue long enough and interfere with students' academic lives, students should call the health center for help at (402) 472-5000.

Debate halted on concealed weapons

From Staff Reports

Although a bill allowing Nebraskans to carry concealed weapons advanced to general file Thursday, LB465's sponsor said he would not pursue the bill's passage this year.

Senators voted 33-7 to cease debate on the bill, which was originally introduced last year.

A motion by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha to bracket debate on LB465 until a later date was defeated, and the bill was advanced from general file to select file on a vote of 31-11.

But Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton, bill sponsor, said he wouldn't seek the bill's passage this year. Only four days remain during which the bill could be debated, and a filibuster would be likely.

Schellpeper said the advancement demonstrated the bill's support in the Legislature. Although the bill will have to start from scratch next year,

Legislature

Thursday's vote will help its chances of passage next year, he said.

The bill has faced opposition from several law enforcement agencies, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the Nebraska Sheriff's Association; and Gov. Ben Nelson has said he won't sign it without their support.

Schellpeper said he would work to accommodate law enforcement officials' concerns before reintroducing the bill next year.

"We want to try to do anything that will make it more comfortable to law enforcement," he said.

LB465 would allow Nebraskans who complete weapons safety training and pass a background check of mental health and law abidance to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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