

Grant aids in beer battle

■ The university will use a binge-drinking grant to fight problems caused by underage drinking.

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

The university is planning to combat drinking on campus with the help of a \$700,000 grant that takes effect today.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln was awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation this year to help address drinking problems, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said.

The \$700,000 grant takes effect today with provisions for enforcement, prevention and alternatives to drinking.

Though administrators have not decided exactly how the grant will be implemented at UNL, Griesen said it should have a positive impact on campus.

University administrators and police are well aware of the problems associated with drinking parties.

Physical and sexual assaults and numerous public disturbances occur at large parties, Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said.

This weekend LPD implemented a special enforcement program to discourage underage drinking and large house parties off campus, Casady said.

Along with Lincoln police efforts to diminish underage drinking in the city, the university wants to send a message to underage drinkers, Griesen said.

"We are trying to make a point," Griesen said. "We want to let people know there are consequences for their actions."

UNL is one of two universities awarded the binge-drinking grant this year.

Police, university join forces to fight drinking

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addition to criminal charges.

Though the university does not usually exercise its jurisdiction for misdemeanors that occur off campus, these parties are a special case, Griesen said.

"It's our students they are marketing to, and our students at risk," Griesen said.

"These parties are a detriment to our purpose."

Griesen said the university's stronger stance on alcohol in campus housing in recent years has pushed the parties out into the city.

"(The university and police) have to work together to diminish the drinking, not just move it," Griesen said.

Police believe that the extra officers will have an effect on the parties.

"We can reduce the size and frequency of these parties," Casady said.

Police want to reduce the number of alcohol violations and other problems while decreasing the size of these parties.

"The blatant violations are the focus of this enforcement," Casady said.

Police believe these problems are only getting worse as the num-

ber and size of parties continue to increase.

In light of national alcohol-fueled problems in university cities, such as the rioting in Boulder, Colo., last fall, and local problems such as physical and sexual assaults at large parties, Lincoln police are trying to stem the flow of problems.

The problems inherent in these parties quickly multiply when two officers are dispatched to a 100 to 200 person party, Casady said.

"People have figured out that there is not much two officers can do," Casady said. "Much of the risk has disappeared."

"We are trying to change that."

The special detail of officers gives police the resources they need to handle larger parties, Casady said.

Before beginning this enforcement project police also met with campus administrators and representatives of greek houses Aug. 20 to discuss alcohol-related problems.

LPD plans to conduct similar enforcement projects throughout the year, Casady said.

"If you violate the law, be prepared to suffer the consequences."

University officials have described the efforts to discourage abusive drinking as a battle in which one of the objectives is to provide a reasonable alternative to drinking activities such as bar crawls.

But the grant is multifaceted

because it discourages drinking while providing alternatives and education, Griesen said.

The university will hold a press conference Sept. 10 to announce the acceptance of the grant and some of the initial plans for the money.

Student-athletes find time for study, play

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT
University of Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. (U-Wire) - When it comes to academics, athletes are more like Rodney Dangerfield than Albert Einstein in traditional public perception.

They really don't get any respect.

And while some of that is self-deserved, most student athletes are just as successful, if not more, than the average student. In 1997, 64 percent of University of Arizona athletes graduated, besting the school's overall average by 12 percent.

"Our student-athletes are well-motivated and really work hard on their studies," Athletics Director Jim Livengood said.

"They have the tough task of balancing their studies, practices and social time. It forces them to get the most out of what limited time they have."

Even though the numbers look impressive at first, they are a bit misleading. Realistically, Arizona student athletes fall into two categories: those whose meal ticket is their education and those who are looking to professional sports for a living.

"I think it's a misrepresentation to clump all of sports together when it comes to their education," UA women's volleyball coach Dave Rubio said.

"Generally, the media focuses on the football and basketball teams. And, in this case, many times they have a different motivation than, say, the women's soccer or volleyball athletes."

In the men's sports with legitimate professional opportunities - basketball, football and baseball - the athletes are more tempted to take less work-intensive majors than athletes in other sports.

For example, in football and men's basketball, 40 percent of last year's starters were in the traditionally cushy

majors of family studies and communication.

Family studies majors have few real-world opportunities upon graduation because of the social science base, so the large number of athletes majoring in this area tends to indicate a lighter workload.

"Like most social sciences, there aren't as many opportunities to earn a high salary as the engineering or business venues," said Rod Cate, director of UA's School of Family and Consumer Resources.

"But what I think the athletes do like is our supportive faculty. We don't try and weed students out."

The other sports tend to behave more like the school averages, with the exception of fewer technical majors.

Some teams, like the women's volleyball team, also enter diverse areas of studies as a group. Most of the volleyball players take four years of sign language to fulfill their humanities requirements.

One worry is that there are the players who try to keep eligibility but never earn applicable degrees.

"It is a concern for us. But you have to realize that the purpose of college is to prepare you for a good job," Livengood said.

"If the professional ranks give some athletes this, then it's sometimes hard to keep their motivation in school."

"It's like if a chemical engineer, who could make \$70,000 upon graduation, was offered \$2.5 million after his third year to work for an engineering firm. Of course he is going to take it, and that's what we have to sometimes face with these talented athletes."

The UA does have guidelines for retaining eligibility. NCAA regulations and Arizona Board of Regents policies state that all athletes must declare a major by their fifth semester with a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.8.

State auditor asks for resignations

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individuals," Breslow wrote in his letter to the governor.

But Harmon said the members left early and stayed late to attend national committee meetings and to take advantage of lower airfares.

She said all costs, which must be reported following strict state guidelines, were legitimate business expenses.

She said the Nebraska board has suggested to NASBA that it should consider the cost of the national and regional conferences when planning them.

"It's important that the location be local and centralized so that the board can attend," Harmon said.

But no matter the location or cost, she said, board members have to attend meetings, gather information and vote on national issues before the board at the national conference.

In a statement prepared by Harmon, she indicated that the money spent by the board comes

from licensing fees paid not only by Nebraska accountants and accounting firms, but also by accountants outside the state.

The Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy, which is made up of licensed accountants and laymen appointed by the governor, regulates and administers licenses for public accounting in Nebraska and also represents the state at regional and national conferences, Harmon said.

The board's budget must be approved by the Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

Harmon said the Legislature has never recommended cutting travel expenses because senators understand the high costs of travel are justified by the importance of regional and national conferences.

Breslow said the board should have sent only one or two people, who could have reported any new information to the rest when they returned.

In his letter, Breslow called on the board members to "submit their res-

"Sometimes the only way we can discover problems like this is by citizens calling in."

JOHN BRESLOW
state auditor

ignation to (Nelson) and reimburse the state for the money wasted."

All members of the accountancy board received copies of the letter sent to Nelson last week.

Karl Bieber, spokesman for the governor, said Nelson's office will wait for a response from the board until it takes any action.

Harmon said the board will prepare an official response to Breslow's letter this week.

Leaders encourage talk about remains

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American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act officials will join in a meeting on East Campus beginning today to arrive at a solution to the issue that has perplexed university officials and American Indians alike.

For the next two days, NAGPRA and university officials will concentrate on Nebraska, said Pamina Yellow Bird, an Arikara tribe member and NAGPRA consultant.

But supporters marched not only for the return of bones at UNL but also to persuade other universities and museums around the country to return the bones they have to the

native tribes to whom they belong, she said.

"We want to come to some kind of agreement about how we are going to solve this problem, not just rhetoric," Yellow Bird said.

Priscilla Grew, UNL vice chancellor for research, said she was committed to returning the bones to American Indians.

Grew said she was encouraged by the cooperation of those working to return the bones to American Indians and by the lessons they have taught the university.

"This is a university," Grew said. "Usually we teach people, but this time it's been the other way around."

Senior economics major Jeff Hughes, who came to the march after reading about the issue in the news, said he thought it advanced the cause.

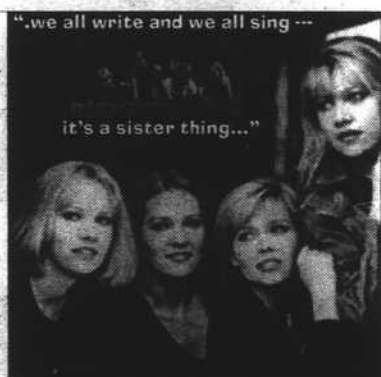
"I think it brings about awareness," Hughes said.

Student government President Sara Russell said she supports the efforts of the march.

"I think this is a way for the people to express their disdain with what's happened at the university," she said.

"I hope it promotes more awareness of the inhumane treatment of the Native American remains at the University of Nebraska."

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