

ASUN



ASUN goals focus on service projects, unity

By IEVA AUGSTUMS
Staff writer

Today the Daily Nebraskan begins its continuing coverage on goals set by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"ASUN Watch" will give students an opportunity to follow their elected representatives' actions and reactions throughout the year.

The goals, as stated by ASUN President Sara Russell (not in any particular order):

Continue commitment to diversity through sponsored events and increased communication with the campus community.

Human Rights Chairman Andy

Schuerman has focused ASUN efforts on improving the racial climate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Schuerman said ASUN is hoping to plan a successful celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 19, 1999. The committee also will look into faculty and student diversity sensitivity classes.

Also, an ASUN bill that recently passed is creating a harassment ad-hoc committee in light of increased publicity and concern about sexual and racial harassment during the 1997-98 school year.

Maintain regular campuswide community service projects.

Ryan Anderson, ASUN senator and campus life committee chairman, along with Russell, is encouraging

student organizations to participate in collaborative service projects to benefit the university and surrounding community.

ASUN's first service project will be cleaning up Memorial Stadium Sept. 27 at 8 a.m.

Enhance technological services to students.

ASUN is pushing UNL to have online course registration, grade retrieval and senior grade checks.

College of Engineering and Technology Senator Paul Schreier said the idea is a massive project each college will have to tackle individually.

ASUN also is updating its Web page to serve students more efficiently. The Web address, <http://www.unl.edu:80/asun/>, will list

senators' names and e-mail addresses, committee information, a list of committee position openings and senate meeting minutes.

"The page will help keep us in contact with students," Schreier said. "It will serve as a connection between us and them."

Research the options to make student evaluations more effective.

Kara Slaughter, chairwoman of the academic committee, is working to implement an all-university course and advising evaluation.

"We want a universal link between each department's evaluations," Slaughter said. "The question is, however, whether there should be a public record of the evaluations."

Slaughter said the universitywide evaluation would revamp the nomination process for the Outstanding Educator Award, an award given to a UNL professor who has had the most impact on a student's college experience.

Address campus parking concerns.

Student leaders are concerned that parking will be removed and not replaced.

With new buildings, residence halls and parking structures being built, Russell said she is going to keep a close eye on the number of parking stalls destroyed and constructed.

Russell said everyone on campus will end up paying more money to help build new parking structures.

"I don't understand why you have to pay more to park further away," Russell said. "It seems economical to have those who have more centralized parking to pay more for parking."

Continue efforts to unite City and East campuses.

Last year ASUN gave \$9,000 to help improve the Student Involvement office on East Campus. Russell said ASUN will follow up on the efforts being made to equalize services between the two campuses.

Create a larger representation of students through outreach initiatives.

"Students complain that they don't have enough representation," Russell said. "We are going to go to the students this year and make sure they know they can come to us."

Russell said that through town hall meetings and an "open door policy," she hopes students feel comfortable talking to their college representatives.

ASUN will vote tonight on a proposed bill to create a new student assembly made of residence hall, commuter and greek students. Russell said the assembly will not give only more student representation but also will serve as a check and balance to student government.

Raise awareness of the proposed tax lid amendment to the Nebraska Constitution and the immediate effects imposed on UNL and its students.

If passed, the proposed tax lid amendment would reduce state educational aid and increase tuition at UNL, Russell said.

She said ASUN will use the Student Impact Team and other student groups to lobby against the constitutional amendment proposed for the November state election ballot.

Lobby for student input in the ASUN government party system.

Last year during the ASUN election campaign, questions were raised on whether student government leaders should be elected through the current party system or on an individual election slate.

Russell said she plans to seek student input as soon as possible and have the campaign and election process changed if needed.

"I personally don't like the party system," Russell said. "It has a lot of benefits, but people abuse it."

Work to promote alcohol awareness and education.

"People do drink on this campus," Russell said. "I'm just trying to make students aware that it is a problem."

Remembering the tragic death of junior Laura Cockson by a drunken driver last spring, Russell said, ASUN is planning to create a memorial scholarship in Cockson's name.

The scholarship would be given annually to a student who actively promotes alcohol education and awareness.

The senate will vote tonight whether or not to accept Russell's proposed scholarship bill.

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