

Law, dental schools take shorter break

BY SARAH BAKER
Senior staff writer

Most UNL students are looking forward to this weekend's first annual fall break to take a trip, celebrate Homecoming here or just simply sleep in.

But a few University of Nebraska-Lincoln students won't have such leisure.

Students in the colleges of law or dentistry won't get a few, precious days off, or at least not the full four. Administrators in both schools have decided to hold classes over at least part of the break.

Harvey Perlman, former dean of the College of Law, said the administrators had no choice but to hold classes on Tuesday.

"Our accrediting agency has a certain number of days we are required to hold classes, and we couldn't do it," Perlman said.

The college discussed other options, such as a Saturday class, but Perlman said the best option was to have class on Tuesday.

Galen Kathol, administrative director for the College of Dentistry, said students and faculty members will work on Monday and Tuesday of the break.

"We go by the Med Center schedule," Kathol said. "We have the day before Thanksgiving off, but no fall break."

Fall break, Saturday through Tuesday, will be observed at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney as well as at UNL.

"The faculty has always been really closed-minded towards the fall break."

AMY RAGER
NU law student

Amy Rager, a first-year NU law student and one of the students who originally worked to get a fall break, said she thought there had to be another solution instead of taking away one day of the break.

Rager, a former student government vice president, said law students already were required to come to orientation classes for two days before the school year started, and she didn't see why one of those days couldn't have counted, or the extra day been added, before the semester started.

"I personally am really frustrated by this," Rager said. "The faculty has always been really closed-minded towards the fall break."

Earl Hawkey, UNL director of Registration and Records, said both colleges work with a modified version of the UNL calendar.

The students who study in the colleges are simply out of luck, Hawkey said.

"As far as I know, these are the only two colleges who had a major scheduling conflict with the break."

Records: GOP big spender in two congressional races

BY TODD ANDERSON
Senior staff writer

Republican candidates for two of Nebraska's congressional seats have raised and spent more money than their Democratic opponents, according to campaign finance reports submitted to the Federal Election Commission Thursday.

Lee Terry, the Republican congressional candidate for District 2, has raised and spent more than seven times as much money as Democrat Michael Scott since the beginning of the 1998 election year.

The spending reports, which must also be submitted to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, show Terry's campaign has spent \$187,000 since July 1 and \$507,000 since January.

Scott's campaign spent nearly \$30,000 between July 1 and Sept. 30, and a total of more than \$69,000 since the beginning of the year.

His largest contributions came from the Transport Workers Union and Sen. Bob Kerrey's political action committee, at \$5,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

Mark Allen, Scott's campaign manager, said it is usual for Democrats in Nebraska to operate with less money because of the political stance Democrats take on issues such as gun control, Medicare and social security.

He said the Republican party was more likely to represent big business interests and right-wing groups, both of which support the party financially.

He said Scott wanted to win the election by going out and talking to the people of District 2, which encompasses metro Omaha.

Allen said more advertisements would appear on radio and television as election day draws near.

Dennis Wellendorf, Terry's campaign manager, said 70 percent of the

contributions to the Terry campaign came from more than 15,000 individuals.

He said the Terry campaign is proud of its grass roots support in the second district.

Terry and Scott are running for the office that will be vacated by Rep. Jon Christensen, who announced he would not seek reelection during his failed bid for the Republican nomination for governor.

Candidates for the representative from Nebraska's first congressional district, which includes Lincoln, also reported a large disparity between campaign contributions and expenditures in the Federal Election Commission's quarterly reports.

Republican incumbent Doug Bereuter, who has served as first district representative since 1978, has spent nearly \$48,000 since the beginning of the year, including more than \$28,000 contributed since July 1.

More money was contributed to Bereuter's campaign by registered political action committees than by individuals at a rate of almost four to one.

Candidates for national office may accept contributions only from individuals or legally registered political action committees, and not directly from companies or corporations.

Bereuter's Democratic opponent, Don Eret, raised almost \$30,000 for the year, with most of his money coming from personal loans.

Eret, who manages his own campaign, did not return phone messages Thursday from the Daily Nebraskan.

Judy Dougherty, Bereuter's campaign treasurer, said being the incumbent in any election gives the candidate an advantage over his opponent.

She said the campaign has tried to remain in contact with past contributors and fund-raisers in Nebraska and Washington, D.C., for monetary support.

The pass/no pass option

Academic Senate considers moving deadline up

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

It may be the D on that last test, the overwhelming reading or the fear of destroying a GPA that tip the scales in favor of taking a class pass/no pass.

Whatever the reason, students have until 6:30 p.m. today - when N-Roll closes - to make that decision, but in the future that deadline may come earlier in the semester, administrators say.

Don Lee, chairman of the Academic Senate Grading and Examination Committee, said the committee plans to review and possibly recommend changes to the policy, which has strayed from its original intent, at the December meeting.

The policy is designed so students can take classes they might not be will-

ing to explore for fear of ruining their GPAs, Lee said.

Chancellor James Moeser asked the Academic Senate in April to review the policy because it was not contributing to UNL's academic rigor, Lee said.

"One of the questions (Moeser) has is, how is it being used? Are students using it in the way it was intended?" Lee said.

One way to return the policy to its original intent would be to push up the deadline for changing a class to pass/no pass, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

"No one is opposed to pass/fail grading," Griesen said. "But do we really need eight weeks to make a final decision?"

"Or does allowing eight weeks for the final decision lead to some abuse, namely students finding out how they

are doing in their courses and deciding which they could move to pass/fail to avoid lower grades?"

Students can take up to 24 hours pass/no pass of non-major classes, but some colleges allow fewer hours or limit the types of classes.

If a student receives a C or better in a class, they pass, and the letter grade is not reflected in their GPA.

Last fall, 1,572 students took at least one class pass/no pass. Most students took only one class pass/no pass, according to the Office of Registration and Records.

The senate will be soliciting faculty and student opinions about possible changes, Lee said.

"I don't think students necessarily slack off because they are taking a class pass/no pass," Lee said, "but I think they are using it to try to gamble on their GPA."

UNL forum examines benefits

■ A group of 25 question who at the university will step up for gay faculty members' rights.

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

Inequality and lack of understanding surrounding domestic partner insurance benefits pervades UNL, but the university does not seem to consider it a necessary part of "diversity," faculty members said Thursday night.

A group of about 25 people left a UNL forum on equity and benefits asking each other which university administrator, if any, would champion their uphill battle for equal benefits for gay faculty members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

George Wolf, an associate professor of English, outlined the frustrating history that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered faculty members have had in trying to secure equal benefits for their domestic partners, such as health insurance and medical and sick leave.

"I don't believe we are any closer to inclusion of domestic partner benefits than we were when I came to this university in 1966," Wolf said.

Wolf, wearing a pin with a small, upside-down pink triangle on it, said the Academic Senate adopted a resolution in April 1996 supporting extending benefits to domestic partners.

The definition of domestic partners was "individuals in an intimate, long-term, exclusive, committed relationship similar to marriage. Both heterosexuals and homo-

sexuals are included in the definition."

Later that year, the idea was taken to the university-wide Fringe Benefits Committee and permanently tabled until legal, financial and other issues were resolved, Wolf said. The committee is made up of representatives from the four NU campuses.

Substantial costs is not a valid reason to not extend equal benefits, said John Taylor, former chairman of UNL's committee on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered concerns.

Three of UNL's 11 peer institutions - Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota - have domestic partner benefits, which do not strain their budgets, said Taylor, an attorney for the Lincoln law firm Taylor, Charest and Yates.

The University of Minnesota system has had a policy for the past four years, which he said cost about \$65,000 over four years. The policy enrolls 186 people, he said.

"The administration is saying, 'We don't want to do this, and we'll hide behind the statement if there's issues still out there,'" Taylor said.

The rejection of domestic partner benefits also goes against the 1989 NU Board of Regents nondiscrimination clause outlawing discrimination based on "individual characteristics," which is interpreted to include sexual orientation, Taylor said.

Matt Zwick, a senior English major, said receiving domestic partner benefits means more than "a few queers wanting some money for their playmates," Zwick said. It is a recognition of his "family," he said.

Family is not just a classification by the government, said Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator for the University Health Center.

"When we ask for an inclusionary definition of family, that's what we are asking for."

Huskers' game competes with fall break

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enough to accommodate game times."

Jason McCallan, Homecoming Steering Committee chairman, said many students cannot adjust their fall break schedules to accommodate the time change.

"No homecoming events are affected by the time change," McCallan said. "But students' travel plans are."

Wiegert said he sold his homecoming football ticket and is going home for the weekend.

"I'm really bummed about missing the game - it's Homecoming," Wiegert said. "Originally, I was going to attend the game. But now, because it's a night game, I can't."

An Athletic Department Ticket Office representative said students have been asking all week for the validation of their football tickets

because they are going home for the long weekend.

As of Thursday, 660 football tickets were validated.

McCallan said having a night game should help keep students a little longer at the university during fall break.

"It's Homecoming and fall break," McCallan said. "We only can hope students will stay and show their school spirit."

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