

Master Plan board formed

ASUN's last meeting results in committee creation

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ASUN



Students can now voice their opinions about the Master Plan, thanks to a bill passed by the student senate on Wednesday night.

In the last meeting of the year, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska passed a bill that will reactivate the Five Year Projection Committee created by ASUN in 1991.

The newly named committee, called the Master Plan Committee, will research how different aspects of the campus will be affected by the 12-year UNL Master Plan.

Although it was created in 1991, Arts and Sciences Senator Heath Mello said the committee became defunct because the senate ignored it for years.

The committee is under the jurisdiction of the second vice president. Trisha Meuret, the current second vice president, had a part in writing the bill to make the committee active again.

Mello, who submitted the bill, said the issues the committee was designed to look at in 1991 seemed relevant to issues the senate is dealing with under the new Master Plan.

"I think the problems have escalated in dealing with things like parking," Mello said. "I think it will spark a lot of interest because people want to get the best possible deal with the Master Plan."

The committee will be made up of seven at-large members and four ASUN senators. Two of the at-large members must be off-campus representatives.

The original bill included delegates from the Office of Admissions, Campus Recreation Advisory Council, Residence Hall Association, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Multi-Cultural Affairs and the Parking Advisory Board.

Teachers College senator John Grebe made a motion to add the ASUN campus safety subcommittee to the list of delegates involved in the Master Plan group.

Grebe said this entity was important since the Master Plan deals with physical changes that could affect the safety of students on campus.

"If you're going to make major renovations to the campus, it would be good to make sure major safety issues

are taken care of."

Along with issues of safety, Arts and Sciences senator Natalie Hoover made an amendment to the bill to add the ASUN students with disabilities subcommittee to the list of delegates.

Hoover said that many blind students avoid the newly renovated Nebraska Union because of the difficulty they have navigating around the new structure.

By including the subcommittee, Hoover said those difficulties would be taken into consideration when changing the appearance of campus.

The two motions passed, despite debate among the senate about including too many specific groups in the bill.

Meuret said the bill was worded so each group would have representation, even if they weren't formally included on the committee.

"When issues come up affecting different groups, we have every facet covered right now," Meuret said.

Mello said the committee and the delegates will research different parts of campus and how it will be affected by the Master Plan.

The report will be passed on to UNL administration and the NU Board of Regents when it is completed.

Government looks at subversion in culture

WASHINGTON (AP) - Marijuana, martinis and Marlboros. They're shown on the big screen and mentioned in popular songs blaring into the ears of young people. Now the government wants to know if that encourages America's youth to use and abuse them.

U.S. drug officials released results of a study Wednesday that says people were depicted using drugs, drinking or smoking in 98 percent of the top movie rentals and 27 percent of the most popular songs in 1996 and 1997.

The study, commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, revealed that of 669 major adult characters featured in the movies, 5 percent used illicit drugs, 25 percent smoked tobacco and 65 percent consumed alcohol.

"Parents need to be more aware about what kids are listening to or watching," Barry McCaffrey, the Clinton administration's chief drug-policy official, said in releasing the report. "This is big business. This is \$25 billion a year of money spent on these forms of entertainment."

Nelba Chavez, administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association, agreed that the entertainment media are a

powerful influence on young people, but she said parents have more of an impact on children.

"There's a lot of room for improvement in the entertainment world, but there's just as much room for improvement in homes and communities," she said.

In the study, drugs were associated with wealth or luxury in 20 percent of the songs, with sexual activity in 30 percent and with crime or violence in 20 percent.

Violent messages in movies and music have surfaced in discussions about what influenced two teen-agers to walk into their high school in Littleton, Colo., last week and shoot 12 classmates and a teacher before killing themselves.

As President Clinton proposed gun-control legislation Tuesday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talked about the school shooting and how children become desensitized and lose empathy for human life when their culture glorifies violence in music, movies and television shows.

"It will take more than strong leadership from the media and entertainment world to stop the culture of violence that surrounds our children. Kids need more caring, responsible adults in their lives."

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