

ASUN touts committees' roles

By **VERONICA DAEHN**
Staff writer

Although the amount of legislation brought to the table in ASUN Senate meetings this year has been slim, that doesn't mean senators aren't doing anything.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., but ASUN President Andy Schuerman said the work senators do is not reflected in the meetings.

"(It looks like) you should be able to track the work we do through the Senate meetings, but that's not the case," Schuerman said.

The overall goal of ASUN is to help University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, and Schuerman said the committees all have student-oriented projects in the works that don't need an ASUN bill passed to help students.

"I'm satisfied that the committees are out there working," he said. "Legislation doesn't touch people."

Schuerman said he hopes more students will come to the meetings and see what's going on because everything ASUN does has to do with students.

This is evident in the work the ASUN committees are doing this semester, he said.

Academic Committee Chairwoman Beth Lee said her group doesn't usually lend itself to writing legislation that needs to be passed, but they a lot can be done without passing bills.

Right now, Academic Committee members are attending up to eight faculty meetings a week to make sure teachers understand the Dead Week policy.

Lee said she might write up a bill that would alter the Dead Week policy but said it depends on feedback.

Campus Life Committee Chairman Ryan Comes said his committee also does work without writing

or passing bills.

Campus Life Committee members are now co-sponsoring America Recycles Day on Monday and are working to publicize the event. They are also giving surveys to faculty members about faculty morale, Comes said.

"There's only so many things we can do," he said. "A lot of us don't have time to do (more)."

Comes said it is difficult to adjust to everyone's time commitments but that he's gained the most from the people he has worked with.

"I don't know if we've necessarily done a lot," Comes said. "But, you improve yourself by working with other people."

The Committee for Fees Allocation has been busy with work that will directly affect students, CFA Chairman Jason Mashek said.

CFA is in charge of doling out student fees to student fee users. To make that decision, the committee is now receiving presentations from the different fee users.

CFA meets every Tuesday for at least two or three hours to hear the different presentations, Mashek said.

Next semester, it will decide how much money to give each student fee user and will meet twice per week.

"We're probably the committee that meets the most and the longest," Mashek said. "ASUN has to approve all the bills we bring up, so that will happen next semester toward the end of everyone's term."

Urrvano Gamez, Special Topics Committee chairman, said his committee's job is to review and approve the constitutions of new student organizations - a task that lends itself to legislation.

When the Special Topics Committee approves a new organization, a bill must then be written.

Marlene Beyke, ASUN director of development, said eight bills have been brought to the Senate by the Special Topics Committee this semester.

Human Rights Chairwoman Jill

"Our goal is to have students know that we are here to serve them."

JILL BRABAND
Human Rights Committee chairwoman

Braband said her committee is working on several projects that affect UNL students.

The group is planning events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January and is also distributing copies of the ASUN reference guide transcribed in Braille.

Braband said she is satisfied with the work her committee has done but would like to see more student interaction with ASUN.

"Our goal is to have students know that we are here to serve them," Braband said.

Communications Committee Chairman Heath Mello agreed that ASUN is here for the students, but that it doesn't need legislation to do its work.

His committee is creating a newsletter for new students and putting on a leadership workshop to get students involved in student government.

"My committee's job is to promote and establish communication links between ASUN and the student body," Mello said. "We're doing a lot of research now to see how we can help."

Both Braband and Mello said legislation does play a role in the work their committees do, and they expect some to come up soon.

Schuerman said the work the committees are doing now will lead to legislation in the future.

"We're an internally motivated group," he said. "We hold each other accountable. I think it's great."

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Youth conference examines violence

By **BRITTANIE JACKMAN**
Staff writer

The 18th Annual Bereuter Youth Institute on Governmental Affairs was held at Nebraska Wesleyan University on Tuesday.

High school juniors and seniors from Lincoln's district - the first congressional district - listened to guest speakers cover topics including the farm price crisis, harassment, cliques and peer pressure.

Jeanie Watson, Wesleyan president, kicked off the event at 9 a.m.

Republican Rep. Doug Bereuter was not able to attend, but staff members helped direct some of the activities.

"The congressman feels that the purpose is to expose students to different relevant topics. The program has successfully been run for 18 years," said staff member Marsha Glover.

Some of the more popular topics discussed included whether television news coverage reinforced violent acts and if harassment, cliques and peer pressure in school lead to violence.

During the media violence discussion, professors from surrounding universities led discussion and answered students' questions.

Nancy Finken, from the department of news at Nebraska Public Radio, covered the topic relating to media and violence. She talked about how people blame the news covering violent events such as the Columbine High School killings for violently influencing people.

"We are not creating a message, we are just the messengers," Finken said.

Renea Germant, from the department of communication studies at Concordia University, discussed the academic research of violence.

Germant pointed out that violence and the media have been around for a long time and said television has been the biggest influence in creating "copy cat" crimes where people commit a similar crime to what they've seen on news reports.

Larry Walklin, a broadcasting professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, discussed changes in media and technology. He said some changes

included television shows and cable channels becoming available in a cafeteria-style, where people can pick and choose what they want.

For one of the other more popular sessions about harassment, cliques and peer pressure in schools, students broke into small groups where they interacted with congressional staff members and Wesleyan graduate students.

In the small groups, students discussed "outcasts" in their own schools and their treatment. Outcasts are considered people who are harassed or made fun of because they may not fit in with mainstream high school society.

The graduate students helped students do worksheets with questions about the characteristics of the people considered outcasts.

The high school students were then asked how they could individually and as a group help that person fit in.

Matt Lorenz, a junior at Beemer High School, said: "By working in the smaller groups with students from other schools, you can understand situations within different schools," he said.

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Positions are open for: web editor, assistant web editor, managing editor, associate news editors, assignment editor, copy desk chief, copy editors, sports editor, A&E editor, opinion editor, night editors, design chief, designers, art director, photo chief, senior artist, senior reporters, senior photographers, advertising account executives, creative ad designer and classified staff.

Pick up an application and job description and sign up for an interview at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications are due Sunday, November 14. Interviews will be held during the week of November 15-19. Positions will be announced before Thanksgiving break. The Daily Nebraskan is an equal opportunity employer and adheres to all applicable guidelines.

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