

—ASUN—

Ballot change to be debated

By Sara Salkeld
Staff writer

At the first ASUN meeting of the semester, senators will debate whether party names will be put on this spring's voting ballots.

Last semester, the senate approved the electoral commission's voting rules, which said candidates' party names would not appear on the ballots.

According to President Andy Schuerman, many senate members said they voted to approve those rules to avoid having a special meeting last semester, knowing there would be a chance to vote on the rules again.

According to the bylaws of ASUN, the election rules must be approved in both the fall and spring semesters.

Even though the rules were approved last semester, they can be discussed and changed this semester. Schuerman said he expected this to happen at the meeting tonight.

He said there is a group of senators who feel strongly about having the party names on the ballot. One of them is Government Liaison Committee Chairman Andy Faltin.

"If you are serious enough to be in the election, then you should identify that you are running with a party."

Jason Mashek
arts and sciences senator

"I am strongly in favor because we want parties to form along a common mindset," Faltin said.

Jason Mashek, arts and sciences senator, said having party names on the ballot would help voters.

"If you are serious enough to be in the election, then you should identify that you're running with a party," he said. "Even if you are an independent, it sets you apart and shows you have initiative."

Other senators said that putting the names on the ballot was not necessary. College of Arts and Sciences Sen. Urrvano Gamez agreed.

"One year is not enough to see any results," Gamez said. "I think they should stay off another year to see if more independent people run. I think that without the party name, candidates have to work harder to get their

name out there and talk to people."

Last year, party names were removed from ASUN ballots.

If the senate votes against the rules, the Electoral Commission will have to meet again to revise the rules.

If a compromise cannot be reached, the issue could end up in the university's student court.

Schuerman encouraged students who have an opinion on whether party names should be included on the ballot to stop by the ASUN office in Nebraska Union 136 or attend the meeting tonight at 6:30 in the union. The room will be posted.

Faltin agreed student input was important.

"People have no right to complain unless they try to be an active participant," Faltin said. "We are willing to listen."

Bill would merge governing boards

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College into a community college.

But after a vigorous fight last year by Sen. Floyd Vrtiska and other supporters of the college, Kristensen said politically that is no longer possible.

Nancy O'Brien, chairwoman of the Board of Regents, said she would be willing to consider the merger if the Legislature decided it was something that was beneficial to the state's colleges and universities.

But it still has to be proven, she said. "Right now there is no compelling reason to restructure it," O'Brien said.

Steve Lewis, a state college trustee, said he was against the merger because it tried to merge two sets of institutions with different missions.

The state colleges focus on undergraduates and teacher education while the universities have a research-orient-

ed focus, Lewis said.

The size of the system would make it difficult to manage, he said.

Robert Haller, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln English professor and member of the American Association of University Professors, said many NU faculty were concerned that adding state colleges to the system would "dilute the mission" of the university.

"We don't want to become part of the unified whole," Haller said.

Haller said it was also important that the regents be able to focus on a narrow area.

"The faculty is happier with the idea that the regents control less rather than more," he said.

Kristensen said the attitude that the universities' mission will become diluted is an arrogant one. He said the state colleges' fear that they will be swal-

lowed up by the mission of the bigger university is unwarranted.

"It was positive with Kearney," he said. "The same thing will happen with other state colleges."

Another group with a stake in the bill is the coordinating commission. Chairman Eric Seacrest said the commission is against eliminating itself.

Created to coordinate efforts between all institutions of higher education, the commission is turning into another board of governance, Kristensen said.

Even though Kristensen feels dealing with the issue now is better than waiting until it is inevitable, he said he was aware that it is not an issue that is immediate on senators' minds.

"It is an issue that will have to be dealt with," Kristensen said.

"Is it one they are ready to do today? No."

Late governor remembered

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he represented clients, said former Gov. Charles Thone.

"Material success was not the No. 1 goal," Thone said. "As a lawyer, he was more interested in justice for everyone."

Crosby was heavily involved in water development and water projects as an attorney, Thone said.

"His contribution to water development was monumental," Thone said.

"He was considered an authority on water law."

Crosby had a good life outside of the law and politics, Pederson said.

"He conducted his personal life in a way that brought credit to his family and the state of Nebraska," Pederson said.

Crosby and his wife, Sen. LaVon Crosby, were involved in politics and the community, Schimek said.

"It's hard to talk about Bob without talking about LaVon," Schimek said. "They were two peas in a pod."

Crosby also had the ability to make people laugh, Schimek said.

"The thing that I most admired about him was his sense of humor," Schimek said.

"He was always delightful, even at rock bottom."

Despite the many roles Crosby held during his lifetime, Thone will remember him for his honesty.

"His real legacy will be his great character and integrity," Thone said. "He was known to be honest, and that transcended his own image."



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