

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Osborne: I'll carry ag torch in Congress

■ The congressman-elect visited farmers to talk about farming woes and form an advisory committee.

BY GEORGE GREEN

GENEVA — Area farmer Ryan Bohling has been struggling to make ends meet.

Now he's looking for some answers. He says poor crop prices are the primary culprit for his difficult times.

But high prices for seeds and fertilizers, along with extra expenses like the inheritance tax, have compounded his burdens.

For these reasons, Bohling headed to Gregory's Family Diner in Geneva on Wednesday, to listen to his new Congressman-elect, Tom Osborne.

Osborne began traversing the massive 3rd Congressional District Tuesday, to visit with his constituents about their farming woes.

While making his rounds, Osborne will form an agricultural advisory committee made up of farmer delegates from eight regions within his district.

Each region will elect two representatives who will be charged with staying in contact with Osborne throughout his two-year term.

These people will update Osborne and his staff about the feelings and needs of the farmers in their area, Osborne said.

For now, he said, the committee members will be responsible for helping him build an agricultural policy to best suit the district's needs.

"We will forge a common agenda," Osborne said.

This arrangement will help to alleviate the feelings among farmers that they are at the whim of Washington politicians, he said.

Giving farmers a slice of the policy pie will also help to build bonds between them and the government officials serving them, he said.

"More ownership means more involvement and farmers will feel more connected," he said.

With these reasons in mind, Osborne started Wednesday's meeting by reviewing results from a survey his staff did with farmers last summer.

A long list of disappointments and complaints arose from the survey, he said. But Osborne highlighted concerns about low crop prices, a lack of young farmers and declining government programs to bail out needy farmers.

Osborne also said the survey showed that farmers felt the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was lagging in its responsibility to support the agricultural community.

According to the study, 85 percent of the farmers surveyed felt that UNL could do more to help agricultural producers.

"It's a major obligation of land-



Nebraska Congressman-elect Tom Osborne met area farmers at Gregory's Family Diner in Geneva on Wednesday. Osborne discussed agricultural policy he will advocate when he reaches Washington, D.C., early next year.

*"It's a major obligation of land-grant universities to help agricultural producers."*

**Tom Osborne**  
3rd-District congressman-elect

grant universities to help agricultural producers," Osborne said.

But at this meeting, Osborne was flanked by Roy Frederick, a professor of agricultural economics at UNL.

Frederick spoke briefly at the meeting, discussing current trends in crop prices and the various policy options the government has been considering to help farmers.

When officials adopt a farm policy, he said, the climate in the crop market

at that moment will play a big part in their decisions.

"Whatever the situation is when Tom and his colleagues begin working will influence their decisions," he said.

No matter the economic season is playing out, Osborne said getting input from his constituents will produce better agricultural policies.

"It's really important to have a handle on what the residents are thinking," he said.



Steven Bender/DN  
Seventy-six year old Deshler farmer Alvin Brettmann confers with Congressman-elect Tom Osborne at Gregory's Family Diner in Geneva. Osborne spoke to nearly 100 people at the diner Wednesday about agricultural policy and the future of Nebraska's farming community.

## Number, nature of cases released

BY JOSH FUNK

UNL officials released Wednesday the number and nature of disciplinary cases handled by the Office of Judicial Affairs this fall.

The release came in the wake of the Daily Nebraskan's requests for records of crimes of violence or sex offenses, the names of students found guilty of those acts and the punishments.

University officials have stood behind their policy of confidentiality involving disciplinary records to protect a student's privacy and to preserve their educational objectives.

"We are first and foremost an educational institution. We educate not only in the classroom, but in how we enforce our code of conduct," Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said.

"Students sometimes make mistakes, and we feel it is our duty to help them learn to function in the community."

When asked how releasing these records would hinder that educational purpose, Griesen answered "How would it help?"

The statistics released list only the code of conduct violation, number of cases reported and number of students

involved.

This fall 130 incidents involving 213 people were reported to Judicial Affairs for prosecution.

It was unknown Wednesday how many of those people were found guilty. Officials said the number of cases prosecuted was not readily available from the database.

If the Daily Nebraskan's request for records were granted, details of 28 of the 213 cases may have been subject to release, but the exact number is uncertain without knowing the details of these cases.

The U.S. Department of Education defines a crime of violence as: arson, burglary, any assault, burglary, any homicide, vandalism or destruction of property, kidnapping, robbery or a sex offense.

A 1998 change to the federal Higher Education Act makes it clear that crimes of violence and sex offenses should not be kept confidential as part of a student's educational record.

The Daily Nebraskan requested access to the records under the state's open records law.

Both the university and the state attorney general's office denied the newspaper's request on the basis of an exception to the

### Crime by the Numbers

The following list shows a selected number of incidents reported to Judicial Affairs and prosecuted under the Student Code of Conduct. A total of 130 cases involving 213 people have been reported this semester. Only one case has been appealed to the Judicial Board.

	incidents	total people involved
physical abuse, threatening abuse & harassment	8	8
sexual assault (inappropriate touching)	1	1
theft, attempted theft & property damage	7	12
traffic violations	4	5
housing violations	28	47
academic violations	11	13
alcohol and drugs	48	96

Records in red: Categories that could be released if the Daily Nebraskan's request were honored.

Melanie Falk/DN

open records law that states personal records of students do not have to be released.

Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman said he stands behind the university policy, which favors confidentiality over the public's right to know.

"On a campus we may want to establish a process that is educational and disclosure (of records) may jeopardize that," Perlman said.

But the chancellor did say he understood the Daily Nebraskan's concerns about releasing disciplinary records.

"The issues policy-wise are not new, and the arguments you make for release are reasonable," Perlman said.

The campus newspaper has raised concerns that the campus should have access to the most accurate information about crimes and other dangers, and the most accurate information must be a combination of police and disciplinary records.

The newspaper also questioned the level of accountability for the Judicial Affairs office given

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## Convention bylaw proves contentious

BY MARGARET BEHM

Amidst a controversial three-hour debate, student government came up with a bylaw for the constitutional convention.

Numerous amendments were brought up during Wednesday's marathon meeting.

Senators were continuously reminded when voting on amendments, if they didn't make a decision, a special session would be held Friday night.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer said the reminders were to emphasize the bylaws needed to be passed.

"I just wanted to let them know that I intended to have this pass before Christmas," he said.

The amended bylaw that was passed lets Schafer and ASUN Speaker Jason Mashek each pick two ASUN members to be on the convention. Two ASUN members also will be randomly chosen.

Schafer gets to choose four at-large students to be on the convention and Mashek will choose three. Two at-large students will be randomly be chosen.

ASUN

Student organizations that are recognized by ASUN also will have a say in the convention.

Each group can elect one spokesperson that can bring proposals to convention meetings. The proposals will then be voted on. If they pass, they would be added to a rough draft of the constitution.

The bylaw passed with a vote of 18 for and three against.

Schafer said he agreed with the passed bylaw.

"I think that most senators felt that this was a fair compromise to the many proposals people brought to the table tonight."

Human Rights Chairwoman Angela Clements said the bylaw should have been tabled to give the senators more time because of numerous amendments.

"I think it's unfortunate that ASUN senators weren't willing to table it, hold a special session and do it right," she said.

Clements had brought a pro-

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