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UNLV entrance requirements could be raised

by Dawn Mattson

Prospective UNLV students will have to work harder to gain admission to the university if faculty recommendations to increase entrance requirements are approved.

The Faculty Senate has recommended 2.7 as the minimum high school grade point average for incoming students. The current requirement is 2.3.

The University's Academic Standards Committee has recommended a gradual increase to 3.0 by 1996, but the Faculty Senate endorsed the lower figure after a report from a special ad hoc committee on entrance requirements.

The higher GPA is part of a package of alternative requirements that will be considered by a

special committee of the Board of Regents which is looking into policies at both UNLV and UNR.

According to the plan, a high school student who does not have a 2.7, but graduates in the top 50 percent of the class or receives a 20 on the ACT or an 840 on the SAT, would still be admitted. Nevada residents would be admitted with a 2.5 on probation, and transfer students would still be admitted with a 2.0 GPA.

Dr. Isabelle Emerson, chair of the Faculty Senate and the ad hoc UNLV Committee on Entrance Requirements, said any change will have to be approved soon in order to be in effect by fall 1992. If it is not approved in time for catalog revisions next fall, the new standards would not go into effect for two more years.

Dr. Kenneth Hanlon, chair of the Academic Standards Committee, said the university is not raising academic standards to reduce admissions, but is trying to place students where they would best be educated. If a student does not

"Students (should be) matched up where they belong before they drown."

- Kenneth Hanlon

have the GPA to be admitted into UNLV, Hanlon said, the student should go to a community college first to learn the proper skills it takes to succeed in a university.

"Students (should be) matched up where they belong before they drown," he said.

Nearly 40 percent of freshman drop out every year. Although it hasn't been determined why students drop out, many probably would have stayed in school if they had started at a community college, Hanlon suggested.

"If we let students come in UNLV and they fail, it hurts them," Hanlon said. "It does no good to just let students in UNLV. We want to let them in, and let them out the door completed."

Hanlon and Emerson both said that raising academic standards would enhance education. They said teachers could cover more information, and it wouldn't cheat quality students out of the education they want to receive.

In fall of 1989, a survey was

conducted with 1,908 freshmen to see just how many would be affected by raising the standards. By raising it to a 2.5, 398 were not eligible. At 2.7, 687 were not eligible, and at 3.0, 1,064 were not eligible. This survey was based on GPA and did not consider ACT or SAT scores or class ranking.

Emerson said committees not only want the academic entrance requirements raised, but they also want to see UNLV incorporate a better Educational Opportunity Program. This program is aimed at helping economically deprived people so that they can get an education. It will help give scholarships, grants and other services including counseling for students to acquire skills necessary for completing college successfully.

Candidates disqualified from election once again

by Bonar Tucker

In yet another twist for the Student Government election candidates, the Judicial Council due to involvement with campaigning, the council said, "All Chris Robertson, Christian Hardigree and Leo Poggione from the race.

The three candidates, running for the offices of student body president, vice president and senate president, had been disqualified earlier by the Elections Board because it was determined they had campaigned illegally.

However, they filed a complaint with the Judicial Council

and the decision was reversed.

In a statement given by the Judicial Council, in which all but two justices removed themselves due to involvement with campaigning, the council said, "All candidates must be given specific standards in writing before the campaign period begins, as to what they will be held accountable for and what will be considered campaign material. Thus, the Elections Board must establish specific written guidelines as to these rules." With this decision, the candidates were reinstated.

But in round two which netted a 4-3 decision on Saturday, the



Hardigree, Poggione, and Robertson

photo by Kelly Best

Judicial Council voted in favor of the Elections Board. The board had contended that part of the earlier Judicial Council statement

was performing a legislative function and that is a violation of separation of powers.

Meanwhile, Hardigree said

the ticket of Robertson, Hardigree and Poggione will refile their original appeals, this time aiming to be more specific.

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Students attend Health Awareness activities

by Tina Crinite

"Look to your health; and if you have it, praise God, and value it next to a good conscience; for health is the second blessing that we mortals are capable of; a blessing that money cannot buy."—Izaak Walton

A healthy lifestyle is something that today's society is becoming obsessed with. People are concerned with diet, exercise and skin care as well as safer sex and substance abuse.

Health Awareness Day, April 4, sponsored by the UNLV Student Health Advisory Committee, the Student Health Center and the Public Student Society of America, promoted the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This effort was made through information, testing and guest

speakers, as well as a performance by the Southern Nevada Planned Parenthood Insight Theatre.

"It was a great success," said Ken Tomory, Student Health Center coordinator. "There was a turnout of more than 700 people in attendance and the booth that constituted the biggest success was the cholesterol screening table."

The only discouraging aspect of the event, according to Tomory, was the problem that the faculty and staff of UNLV never seem to take advantage of Health Awareness Day and what it has to offer.

The cholesterol screening gave more than 65 students the opportunity to check their cholesterol levels and see where their lifestyles needed improvement. If cholesterol, a yellow, waxy, fat-like, nutrient transported in the blood, rises above a certain level, it puts

a person at risk for heart attack, heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

Michael Carrigan, political science major at UNLV, seemed surprised to find his cholesterol level at only 123 MG/DL (milligrams per decileter).

"I didn't know it was that good," Carrigan said. "I've been trying to cut back on high cholesterol foods and felt good about what I have been trying to accomplish."

To the contrary, there were many students who were shocked to find their levels on the high side and were told by the Cholesterol Screening Coordinator, Patrick Huson, MT, to cut down on some of the favorite foods consumed by college students, such as beer and pizza.

"Overall there was a very good

response," Huson said. "Since it was my first year at UNLV's Health Awareness Day, I thought that it was fabulous, and was surprised to see the interest the students showed and the fact that many were very interested in learning more about the effects of cholesterol."

Other featured presentations included the performance by Southern Nevada's Planned Parenthood Insight Theatre, which was composed of several high school students who provided a look at the consequences of risky sexual behavior as well as the benefits of safe sex. In the various skits, the teens were able to convey the message of safe sex through the use of contraceptives, birth control, or the word "no."

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