

Titus, Rawson just doing their jobs

Since when are state legislators outside their jurisdiction in criticizing university regents?

Regent Jim Eardley is screaming over a recent meeting of the Legislative Interim Finance Committee in which regents were criticized for their decision to include a surcharge to escalating student fees. State senators questioned the fee increase tactic to supplement cut backs.

Eardley, of Sparks, Nev., alluded to a conflict of interest in the senate because two of the legislators who held reservations over the surcharge were college faculty members—Sen. Ray Rawson, R-Las Vegas, from the faculty of the Community College of Southern Nevada and Sen. Dina Titus, D-Las Vegas, a political science professor at UNLV.

Sen. Rawson stated his concern for students who are systematically discriminated against by higher education institutions because of the cost. And Sen. Titus questioned the motives of university regents. She brought up the fact that several administrators have car allowances and are using funds to redecorate their offices.

Despite their university involvement, these senators realized that as elected officials they have a responsibility to their voters and to their constituents. A responsibility to question the actions of all entities of state.

The fact that they are university employees makes them more prone to see abuses of power in the university system. Therefore, their opinions and concerns about the university should be given credit because of their home court advantage, for lack of a better phrase. Of course bias is always a factor, but in a case like this, conflicting interest doesn't appear to be present.

If anything, Eardley overstepped his bounds as a regent. He has no authority over state senators, and it is grossly inappropriate for him to attempt to influence legislative discussions simply because two of the senators are also employed by the university system. Is he contending that these two qualified elected officials are incapable of governing objectively? I bet he wouldn't have been so critical if the senators had spoke out in favor of the regent decision for a fee surcharge.

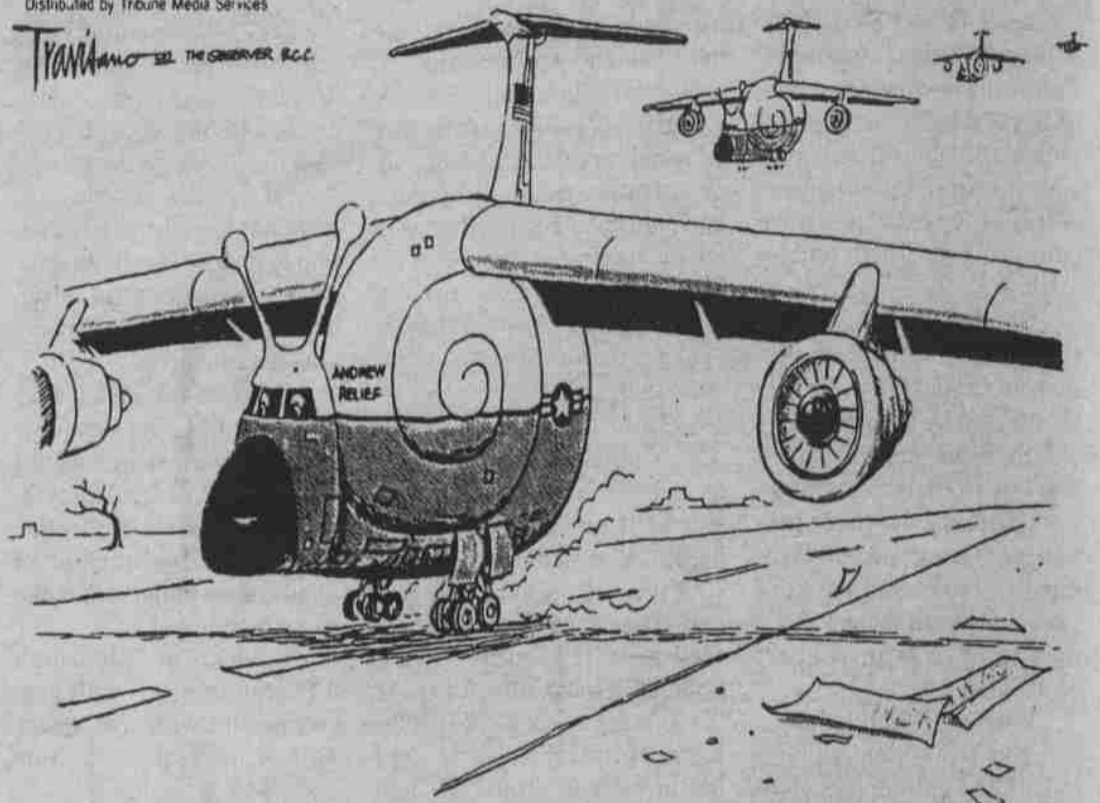
The surcharge was enacted in response to a \$173 million cut to the state government and education for 1993-95, handed down by Nevada Gov. Bob Miller. The University of Nevada System had to reduce its budget by \$38 million. The university speculates that the surcharge will raise \$3 million, and it will expire next June.

Let us not forget to whom our elected officials are responsible first and foremost: us, the taxpayers.

The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other inclusions on the opinion page reflect the opinions of the author or artist indicated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Rebel Yell staff.

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OPERATION MIAMI STORM

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

The concept of the student health fee at UNLV originated from a national survey of four-year public universities and funding sources of college health centers. This survey and others indicated that the majority have a student health fee either assessed separately or as part of the student activity fee. This survey also pointed out that UNLV's student health program was significantly smaller in size, staffing, and services as compared to other similar universities. The health fee will enable us to expand services that include evening hours for night students, increase physician services to full time, as well as increasing other needed health care providers, and the current building will expand from four exam rooms to 12.

It is important for students to understand that this is not specifically a fee for users of the health center. Rather, it is a program fee. The health fee monies provide us with the ability to meet national standards developed and recommended by the American College Health Association, and to come into compliance with new federal laws, notably OSHA and CLIA.

Students often only see the visible part of our operation, which is patient care. The Student Health Center also has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of the UNLV campus and to provide educational opportunities for students. Campus health concerns currently being addressed by the SHC include: first aid to the UNLV community when injured or ill on campus; moni-

toring communicable diseases, including and other sexually transmitted diseases, measles, and influenza; student immunizations during outbreaks and for prophylaxis; assist with campus risk management; service on campus committees that develop policies for sexual assault, sexual harassment, HIV disease and AIDS, biohazardous waste disposal, and others. We also provide the rape crisis intervention team for camps in the event of on-campus sexual assault.

Educational experiences provided by the SHC include: undergraduate and graduate internship programs; expansion of our two-credit, nationally recognized peer health education programs to all students regarding sexual, substance abuse, and nutritional health issues; doubling the number of student workers on financial aid working at the SHC; and an "open door assistance policy to aid students with class assignments, from programs as diverse as business and economics, to hotel management, to nursing.

I hope this letter explains that the \$20 per semester health fee will provide a beneficial service for the entire UNLV community and I strongly encourage students who are in support of the health fee to send letters to Student Body President Joel Kostman, CSUN or myself.

Lori J. Winchell, R.N.,
Student Health Center director

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