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Volume 21, No. 59

May 7, 1998

# ACLU takes faculty side on computer policy

By Andrew Kerolac  
Staff News Writer

University administrators found their controversial computer policy firmly rejected at last week's faculty senate board meeting.

The policy, which has many faculty members up in arms, is one intended to regulate computer usage by faculty members.

The type of regulation included in the document allows for suspension of computer rights based on what some call the vague use of the phrase "unauthorized use of computer facilities."

University of Nevada, Reno faculty senate member Richard Siegel said it was that type of vagueness

which caught his attention.

"(If a professor couldn't use a computer) the supposed offender would virtually be unable to function as a university professional," Siegel told the *Sun*.

The policy allows for computer administrators to access any files or accounts suspected of unauthorized use and further states that since the state owns the computing system, the users have no right to privacy and administration has the right to control its use.

Faculty members strongly opposed to the policy are claiming that the policy is disturbing and attacks the right to freedom of speech as well as the academic freedoms which make up a university setting.

"The policy does not allow for any privacy rights," said Gary Peck, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Even though I suspect that the administration is legally wrong, this is not just a legalistic issue. This goes directly to the heart of university or college systems' core values.

"They seem oblivious to the fact that the faculty, students and staff can work on information stored in the computers which sometimes needs to be held in confidence."

One example of the necessary confidentiality he states is the type of works that sociology professor Barbara Brents spoke of to the *Sun* newspaper.

She has worked on the sociological study of Nevada's sex industry for the past three years.

"We talk to individuals who, if their identities were made public, found out, or even casually spread, could face serious consequences," Brents told the *Sun*.

According to policy critics, this case is typical of the type of privacy issues that should be accounted for in the university setting.

"(In such studies) it is required that information be held in confidence," said Peck. "Those people have very strong rights to guard from such a policy."

"To disrespect the privacy of such cases is to put hundreds of thousands of dollars of university funding at risk, because those agencies require confidentiality."

The faculty senate has tabled the policy until the fall semester, but there is no absolute date by which the policy needs to be implemented as of yet.

The policy's ultimate approval will depend on how the board of re-

gents accepts the issue.

Regent Shelley Berkeley has said that there will be no policy accepted until one is drafted in which everyone's constitutional rights are protected.

"We're treading on new territory here," said Berkeley. "We must be careful to balance the needs of faculty, the administration and the university system."

"It is important to hear the concerns. We would rather hear them now than after a policy is enacted," Berkeley told the *Sun*.

"I am heartened at the fact that administration and legislative staff seem to better understand that the draft is replete with problems," said Peck. "There needs to be a full discussion before any policy is implemented."

But university attorney, Carl Armstrong, who created the policy, said he was seeking input on the proposed policy.

The policy, according to

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## Graduation time again



file photo

The Thomas and Mack Center will hold graduation ceremonies Saturday, May 16 for approximately 4,100 students. There will be one ceremony at 9 a.m. and another at 1 p.m.

## Senate fails again to approve stipends

By Brad Tittington

News Editor

At the senate meeting on Monday night, the senate once again failed to reach a decision on the directors' stipends for next year.

The original amounts that were submitted to the senate for discussion were for the entertainment and programming director to receive a \$420 a month stipend and a 24 credit fee waiver and for the organizations board director, office of student information director, Nevada student affairs director and the elections board director to receive \$400 a month and a 24 credit fee waiver.

A motion was made to increase all the stipends to \$500 a month, which failed. Next, a motion was made to lower the stipends to \$300 a month, which, after a lengthy discussion, failed.

The senators also voted on a number of funding requests for various organizations.

Beta Theta Pi, Aikido Club, UNLV ASME, A.P.H.P., Poetry Club, UNLV Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, PRSSA, Alpha Kappa Psi, Native American Student Association, Sigma Gamma Sorority, Sigma Alpha Mu, U.A.S.W., Pakistani Indian Association, UNLV Bowler's Association, S.O.L., Pi Sigma Alpha, Black Student Association and the Human Powered Vehicle Club all received \$500

for their funding request.

Alpha Kappa Alpha received \$250, LGBA received \$267.80 and Sigma Gamma Epsilon received \$196.43 to round out the funding requests.

The senate also approved \$200 to Leia Fleischman as merit pay as director of the elections board.

The meeting was the final meeting of the semester and there were three senators who will be graduating this year. Melissa Colen, Heather Hamilton and Nicole Lehman will all be leaving their seats as they receive their diplomas later on this month.

Although this meeting was the final one of the semester, the senate will hold meetings during the summer. The first of these meetings will take place on the 18th of this month. The agenda for that meeting includes an item submitted by Education Senator David Fisk and Education Senator Jamie Hemmington that calls for the entertainment and programming director to receive a \$370 a month stipend and a 24 credit fee waiver and the rest of the directors to receive \$350 a month and a 24 credit fee waiver.

Engineering Senator Ryland Whitaker has submitted by-law 48 to get \$7,000 for engineering scholarships.

The senate will also appoint new senators to the vacancies for urban affairs, education and business.

## UNLV to graduate more than 4,100

By Valerie Miller

Staff News Writer

Graduation ceremonies for UNLV are just a little more than a week away, with over 4,100 students eligible to participate in the two commencement ceremonies on May 16 at the Thomas and Mack Center.

UNLV officials estimate more than 1,200 students will take part in each ceremony. Eligible to

participate in this year's ceremonies are those students, who completed their studies during summer 1997,

December 1997 and May 1998.

The first graduation ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. and will be for students from the College of Hotel Administration, the College of Extended Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Sciences, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Urban Affairs.

At the second ceremony at 1:30 p.m., students from the College of Business, the College of Education, College of Engineering and the College of Health Sciences will graduate.

Those students from the Graduate College will participate in the ceremony for the college they are receiving their degrees from.

No tickets are required for this year's ceremony, as they were in years past, and the ceremony is expected to last about two hours. Each college will hold their own receptions after the ceremonies.

Graduating students at UNLV said that they were very excited about graduating and were happy with the way the Commencement was set up this year.

"I like the fact that they break it up, because it puts more emphasis on my college," said graduating senior Ryan MacRorie, who is receiving his degree in marketing from the College of Business.

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