STUDENT ACCOUNTS

UNL Bills—Things You Need to Know!

The Office of Student Accounts serves as the bill collector for UNL's centralized billing. By having a centralized billing, we combine into one bill a large variety of charges that could range from tuition to Burger King to parking tickets. For a complete listing of the areas we bill for, please visit our web site.

We encourage parents to educate themselves about the billing processes here at UNL and to talk to their students about this subject. Some highlights that parents should note are:

- The bill is the student's even if you may be the one paying it.
- The bill is online with notification being emailed to the address the student specifies.
- The bill is a monthly statement which is always available for viewing by the 25th of the month and due the second Wednesday of the following month.
- Your student can grant you access to his/her bill through WAMS (What About My Student) - http://wams.unl.edu
- Refunds of credit balances are processed weekly and are available via direct deposit. Timing of charges from areas such as the Bookstore often creates new balances after a refund has been issued.
- Your student will incur a $20 late payment fee among other sanctions (see our web site) if the bill is not paid on time.
- The student can restrict disclosure of any information on their account.
- You or your student should always review their bill – even if you do not think there is a balance due.
- If there are questions about a bill, contact us before the bill is due.

Please visit our web site at http://stuaccts.unl.edu/ and bookmark us. Our site provides a large amount of information regarding many subjects about which you may have questions. There is also an email address available for you to email us with any further questions you may have.

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POLICY CLARIFICATION

Syllabi, 15th Week Policy

As you prepare for the spring semester, we write to offer clarification of two policies—one pertaining to syllabi and the other to the 15th week.

Board of Regents Bylaw 4.1 requires that all faculty/instructors must “inform students concerning the requirements, standards, objectives, and evaluation procedures at the beginning of each course.” At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, faculty/instructors must meet this requirement through a written syllabus given to students at the beginning of each term. In addition to the above information, each syllabus must also make clear the instructor’s name, office location, contact information, and office hours.

Last fall the Academic Senate approved a new **15th Week Policy** that goes into effect this semester and replaces the long-standing Dead Week Policy. The new policy—which does not apply to the College of Law—states that: “Final examinations for full semester classes are to be given only at the regularly scheduled time as published in the Official Schedule of Classes or at another time during finals week mutually agreeable to all concerned.”

The phrase “mutually agreeable to all parties concerned” entails the following: 1. The professor/instructor presents an alternative to the procedures listed above. He/she then obtains in an anonymous method agreement or opposition from each student for three consecutive class periods. The process of obtaining agreement to the alternative procedure must be completed by the end of the twelfth week of the semester. If no anonymous opposition is expressed on any of the three days, the professor/instructor may then choose to adopt the mutually agreeable procedures for finals week which would otherwise be prohibited under the above policy. **However, in no case can an exam be scheduled after the end of the official exam period. A written record of this process should be maintained.** 2. “All parties concerned” includes the professor(s)/instructor(s) for a given course/course section as well as all students enrolled in that course/course section.

Projects, papers, and speeches scheduled for completion during the last week (15th week) of classes must have been assigned in writing by the end of the eighth week and must be completed no later then Wednesday of the 15th week. This stipulation refers to the project and its scope, but not the topic. Furthermore, ALL requirements, except for the final exam, must also be completed no later than Wednesday of the fifteenth week. However, if the instructor is replacing the final exam with a project, paper, or speech, the due date for the assignment can be any time during the 15th week or during finals week (providing that the assignment has been given by the eighth week). The exception to this is a class meeting one day a week on a Thursday or Friday for which all policies/requirements are shifted to either a Thursday or Friday, respectively.

Complaints about failure to follow the above outlined 15th-week procedures should be made immediately. Complaints should first be made directly to the instructor of the course in which the violation has occurred or is likely to occur. This could be done by simply directing the instructor’s attention to this policy statement. If the problem cannot be worked out, the student may inform the President of ASUN of the progress of the complaint and request aid in correcting the problem. If corrective actions are not taken within two days, the complaint should be submitted to the department chair or head by the student or the ASUN representative on behalf of the student. If the chair/head is unable or unwilling to resolve the complaint within two days, the complaint should be submitted to the College Dean, and if the Dean is unable or unwilling to resolve the problem within two days, the student, or the ASUN representative on behalf of the student, should appeal to the Office of Undergraduate Studies. Resolving the complaint should in no case take longer than eight working days.
Recollections of Dr. James Griesen

“The happiest are those who like what they do,” said Dr. Griesen during the University Honors Program “last lecture” series which occurred in November.

On June 30, 2006, Dr. James Griesen will retire as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Dr. Griesen has been the Vice Chancellor since 1986 and will continue working for UNL as a professor in the Educational Administration Department. The search for a new Vice Chancellor was underway during the month of January with five candidates visiting campus. Dr. Juan Franco accepted the position. During the fall semester the Daily Nebraskan wrote several articles regarding Dr. Griesen, his service to the University and his upcoming retirement. We have compiled some recollections from these articles.

Regarding why Dr. Griesen was chosen for the last lecture series:
• “Griesen was chosen to speak because of his dedication to his position as vice chancellor and his high respectability,” (Kevin Zelaya)

When asked how he might be remembered:
• “…he said he might be remembered as having helped start programs like New Student Enrollment, although he said memories fade with time. ’What lasts longer is the way you impress people.’ ” (Kevin Zelaya)

On his legacy at UNL:
• “Griesen said he was humbled by a Daily Nebraskan editorial published earlier this fall, which said he would be remembered for helping students succeed.
• ‘If that’s my legacy here, then I hope I don’t spoil it during my last months here,’ he said.” (Kevin Zelaya)

What those who work with him say:
• “The man has done an incredible amount of things with an awfully small staff in his office and a budget that is pathetically small compared to other universities,” Dr. Doug Zatechka said. “And he’s always done it with dignity, honor, civility, decency and integrity.” (Meredith Grunke)

Dr. Griesen has been a friend to all students, campaigning for their rights and listening to what they think. One of the ways he has done this is through the UNL Parents Association. As a venture that began to give parents and families a voice, the UNL Parents Association has continued due to the support and the recognition which Dr. Griesen has supplied.

RAFFLE FUND

East Campus Union to Benefit

Each year the UNL Parents Association reviews funding request proposals for programs or items which will benefit University of Nebraska-Lincoln students. These funds are raised during the Parents Association’s annual tuition raffle in the fall.

This year, the Nebraska East Union was selected as the recipient and will receive $2,800 on behalf of the UNL Parents Association. The money will be applied toward the purchase of a large screen television for the newly remodeled student lounge area in the East Union.
Faculty and staff are putting even more effort into keeping every UNL student at UNL until they graduate.

The first part of a new, visible retention campaign is a postcard to UNL employees: “This is what a 1 percent increase in student retention looks like...” featuring 36 student faces demonstrating the human effect of enhanced retention efforts.

Retaining UNL students goes beyond data – those percentage points are real, live students. And keeping students here at UNL is everyone’s job.

That’s the message Rita Kean and the Office of Undergraduate Studies is bringing to every faculty, staff and administrative member of UNL.

“Our ultimate goal is that our students who start here or transfer here graduate and go on to be successful alums,” said Kean, dean of Undergraduate Studies. “The goal of the awareness campaign is that we should raise visibility that we are improving in our ability to retain our students... but that we have more work to do.”

The postcard is a visible reminder of the point of student retention, and calls faculty and staff recipients to act, inform themselves or to give more attention to retaining students. A new Web site: retain.unl.edu, lists varieties of ways faculty and staff can help keep students at UNL, and subsequent mailings and information pieces on the Web or on other media will list success stories or “best practices” from ideas brought by various faculty and units across campus.

Kean said the Enrollment Management Council consulted with faculty and staff to identify key barriers to student retention, then created a “best practices” list to share.

Where in the past the term retention has typically been viewed as keeping first-year students from leaving between their first and second year, a broader view of retention has emerged to encompass the entire student career from enrollment through graduation.

Students’ lives and their educational needs have continued to complicate retention strategies, Kean said. Today’s students view their college experience as the entire scope of their personal, social and academic life, and faculty and staff should be aware that retaining students is more than just offering academic help.

“It’s so important for faculty and staff to make a connection with a student, to reach out and help students navigate their way through their UNL experience,” she said. “Sometimes students don’t know what questions to ask: ‘who’s my adviser?’ ‘how do I make an appointment with her?’ ‘what is expected of me?...’ We need to make sure they feel connected and get these answers.”

Kean said retention first-year initiatives like the Mid Semester Check have proved successful already. UNL is the first university of its kind to offer a “check-point” approach to first-year students part-way into the semester. In Fall 2005 more than 1,500 students attended.

She also cited the University Teaching Assistants Corps as a successful new initiative to aid retention. Especially for large classes, the corps features successful students in select classes who are trained in Supplemental Instruction techniques, who also mentor students and work as a liaison between students and faculty.

The learning community program is also beginning to morph into thematic areas that will carry into second, third and fourth years, not just as a freshman activity. The STAR advising center in Selleck, also an OUS program, is highlighted as a retention strategy that is a partnership between Housing and Undergraduate Studies.

OASIS and NU Connection programs help specific student populations and are also listed as best practices.

These examples employ teamwork as an important strategy, Kean said.

“The Mid Semester Check works because we have involvement from faculty and colleges that require attendance at the event for students in their first-year core course, Housing, the resident assistants, Greek system, New Student Enrollment and Admissions,” she said.

“We realize that retention is everybody’s business, it’s not just faculty, it’s not just support staff... because students do not separate us like that. They see UNL as a whole. We’re all here to support students, to help them explore their intellectual, social and personal selves.”

Kean said ultimately, the goal of getting a retention rate near 90 percent is attainable. UNL’s retention percentage is at 84.6 percent (up from 74.3 in 1996) and Kean would like to move that rate toward the high 80s in the next few years. UNL falls behind its peers in retention, and with a difficult recruitment climate, retaining students becomes even more critical.

Ideas about retaining students can be shared at retain.unl.edu

“We need to give people information and the tools and this is a good first step,” Kean said.
HISTORY

UNL Parents Association Highlights

As this is quickly becoming a landmark year with the retirement of Dr. Griesen and Barb Wright-Chollet, we decided to take a brief look at the Parents Association under their guidance.

March 1987–75: Parents meet at UNL on a Saturday to find out more about themselves and how they can help the University

Oct. 10 1987: First Parents Association meeting
   Original dues—$10.00/individual or married couple
   Remarks by Dr. Griesen on “Getting the Most Out of the UNL Registration: How Parents Can Help”

Spring 1988: Parents Association recognizes and supports faculty salary increases

Fall 1988: Parents Association Faculty Recognition Award nomination comes out for the first time

Spring 1989: ‘Parents Calling’ project initiated, where parents were called to see how they believed there students were adjusting to their first year.

   Where to go for information at UNL was put into the newsletter
   Faculty were honored by UNLPA and UNL Teaching Council, “for having a significant, positive impact on the lives of UNL students”

Fall 1989: New Campus Recreation Facility opens-phases I and II are completed and phase III is set to begin in Jan. 1990

Fall 1990: UNLPA Advisory Board speaks out against a 2% lid on spending

Christmas in October-The first drawing for in-state tuition for their son or daughter for first and second semesters, second prize was in-state tuition for first or second semester

Spring 1994: UNL offers telephone course registration

   Money provided by the Association’s annual raffle made it possible for students to search for scholarships via computer

Fall 1996: First Freshman Seminar and New Student Convocation

Spring 1997: 200,000 families represented, donated over $40,000 to student body in gifts.

   Union expansion begins in January

Fall 1997: 10th anniversary year

Fall 1998: WAM! is introduced, allowing students to view their University information, such as class schedules and financial aid information

June 2001: Van Brunt Visitors Center opens

Sept. 20–22 2002: 1st annual UNL Parents Weekend

Feb. 23 2003: 1st Big Red Road Show

All of these events occurred with the help and support of the parents. As UNL continues with a leadership change we will remember what has been accomplished in the past.
Experience Life Outside the Box

Nebraskans And Peace Corps

Can you see your student changing the world?
Or at least a small part of it?

Has your student ever thought of teaching English in an Eastern European high school or introducing new marketing strategies to small business owners in West Africa or helping a South American community preserve valuable natural resources? Has your student ever considered making a difference in the lives of others and, at the same time, changing his/her life.

Encourage your student to join the hundreds of University of Nebraska–Lincoln alumni who have used their education and skills to make a difference in the world as Peace Corps Volunteers. All expenses are paid and extensive language and skill training is provided.

UNL Peace Corps Facts and Figures

• Today, 24 UNL graduates are making a difference as Peace Corps Volunteers around the world.
• Nearly 303 UNL grads have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.
• These UNL volunteers hold degrees in a variety of fields, including business, psychology, philosophy, economics, biology, forestry, education, anthropology, history and political science.

Benefits of Peace Corps service include:

• Paid travel and living expenses
• Medical and dental coverage
• Student loan deferment
• $6,075 bonus
• Graduate school program opportunities
• Non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs
• International work and leadership experience
• 48 days paid vacation
• The experience of a lifetime

Graduate School Programs Available for Past and Future Peace Corps Volunteers, including a unique program at UNL!

The Peace Corps has established partnerships with colleges and universities throughout the U.S. to offer graduate programs with financial incentives to Volunteers during or after their Peace Corps service.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln offers a Master’s International MBA in Agribusiness through the College of Business Administration and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Visit www.peacecorps.gov to learn more about the benefits of our Master’s International and Fellows/USA programs and to search our database of participating schools and academic programs.

A Letter From Peru

While originally from Rapid City, SD, I lived in Lincoln and attended the University of Nebraska from 2000—2004 and graduated from the College of Arts & Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and History. Shortly after graduation, I was accepted into the United States Peace Corps and left for Peru in September of 2004. I have been working in Peru as community health volunteer ever since, and will continue to serve here until November of 2006.

My interest in serving as a United States Peace Corps volunteer stemmed from the cross-cultural experiences I had while studying abroad during my sophomore year of college. Through my studies and travels, I realized how fortunate I was to live in a country with endless opportunities for success. We too often forget how lucky we are to have access to things ranging from higher education and employment to the simplest necessities of life like food, water and electricity. I am personally humbled by the great fortune I have had in my young life and feel obligated to share what I can with those that need our help. These feelings and the pride I have for my nation led me to the Peace Corps.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru, I am serving in a small, isolated, Andean community called Chavín de Huántar. With about 3,000 residents, Chavín serves as the district capital and supports the several thousand people that live in communities scattered throughout the hillsides. There are serious problems with malnourishment amongst children due to unbalanced diets and inadequate hygiene practices. Rates of chronically malnourished children range from 40% - 90% in the surrounding communities. With those staggering figures, I have been working in conjunction with my health center and schools to combat the root causes of the problem. We have performed plays for children, worked with the NGO CARE Peru in hand washing campaigns and continue to use other creative forms of education to impress upon kids and adults alike the importance of nutrition and hygiene.

I have also found some success implementing “cocinas mejoradas” which are wood-burning cook stoves that allow a healthier and more efficient way for residents to cook. This stove not only conserves heat and saves wood, but more importantly channels the smoke generated out of the kitchen. This prevents respiratory problems and other smoke related illnesses from affecting the mothers and their kids who spend so much of their time in the kitchen.

The opportunities are endless and I look forward to another successful year in the Andes of Peru. If you are interested in the Peace Corps, feel free to contact me at drew.j.lewis@gmail.com

Regards,
Drew Lewis
Cuerpo de Paz
Chavín de Huántar Ancash
Peru