

National Campus Briefs

compiled from the College Press Service

Students debate whether campus leaders should be paid for their work

Given that it's election time on many campuses, students at colleges and universities nationwide are asking whether student government presidents deserve to be compensated.

The ongoing debate could define once and for all the meaning of "public servant." About 70 percent of schools across the country compensate student leaders with a wide range of rewards, including full-tuition waivers, cash salaries, class credits, scholarships, unlimited photocopying privileges and reserved parking spaces.

"For many (in student government), it's a full-time job," said Butch Oxendine, publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Student Leader* magazine. "Without pay, lots of quality leaders couldn't serve because they'd have to get jobs off campus. A salary or scholarship allows all types of students, not just wealthy ones, to get involved on campus."

Regardless of how many long hours are involved, many students say their leaders shouldn't be compensated for a variety of reasons.

"If you start paying them, you're going to have people that have no interest in student government running [for office]," said David Piell, a candidate for student trustee and the Urbana-Champaign senate at the University of Illinois. "You run because you represent the people, not because of the payoff."

Added sophomore Kristin Acuff, another Illinois student running for office, "You know you've got real

quality people working if they're willing to do it for nothing."

Also troubling, some students say, is that compensation could compromise the power of student government.

"I think paying [campus leaders] would only make them more susceptible to the will of the administration," said Jamie Aussieker, a student at Depauw University, where student leaders aren't paid. The most highly compensated campus leader in the country is the student body president at the University of Miami in Florida. The office-holder gets a \$19,140 annual tuition waiver.

The Associated Students president at Washington State University, gets the largest salary – \$15,463 per year.

"Our student executives are very hard-working people," said Gus Kravas, vice provost of Student Affairs at Washington State. It's a 40-hour-a-week job, and the university administration considers them part of the administration." Ultimately, the issue's resolution rests with the student body being governed, many school officials say.

Personal essay posted to Internet, student sues

LINCOLN, Neb.— A former University of Nebraska student is suing a professor who posted on the Internet a personal essay she had written in class several years ago.

Rania K. Shlien claims English professor David Hibler violated her copyright and caused her great

humiliation when he publicized her work without seeking permission.

Shlien's suit also faults the university for negligence because it let her writing appear online and allowed it to remain there for several days after she complained about it.

Shlien's mother discovered the essay while reading one of the university's Web pages and found revealing personal information that, according to Shlien's attorney, "has caused damage in the family."

He would not elaborate. The lawsuit also contends that the university should not be allowed to publish students' work without their permission.

Richard R. Wood, vice president and university counsel for the University of Nebraska system told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that the school bears no responsibility for the incident because Hibler "was not authorized to publish anything on the Internet, or anywhere, in violation of anyone's copyright."

Wood also told the *Chronicle* that his office wouldn't be representing Hibler because the Web pages in question were outside his responsibilities as a faculty member.

According to the *Daily Nebraskan*, this is the second online controversy involving Hibler in the last month. He sent several people – students and colleagues – E-mail containing what some said were racial slurs. Several school officials, including the university's chancellor, condemned the messages, but some recipients said they were more puzzled by them than angered.