

## POLICY

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are given at the discretion of teachers.

Some critics accuse the regents of being homophobic and restricting academic freedom.

"These are two bonafide contentions, but I also maintain that we are trying to protect academic freedom — always were, always have been," Berenstein said. "It's never been an issue about whether or not they can show the movies — as long as they give the warning. It never was a homophobic issue."

Faculty members said students are expected to look at a syllabus so they know what they are getting into when they enroll for a class.

The University of Iowa faculty was unable to agree on a policy, so the regents imposed their own last month after accepting versions reluctantly submitted by Iowa State and Northern Iowa.

"I think it boils down to censorship," said O'Connell, the teaching assistant.

"It's not conducive to good teaching or good learning," she said. "I feel like the policy has come out of an atmosphere of homophobia, even though the regents say that's not true."

## ALCOHOL

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drinking elsewhere.

Officials at the 12,800-student university support the alcohol-free experiment, which is in keeping with administration efforts to raise standards overall at the school.

"The university is pleased," said William Lucy, the greek adviser and associate dean of student activities. "They offer a good choice for our students."

But don't count on fraternities across the nation following the Sigma Chi chapter's example, not even Sigma Chi brothers on other campuses, said Fred Yoder, a national Sigma Chi spokesman in Evanston, Ill.

"I don't see that as being a popular atmosphere in fraternity houses," Yoder said frankly.

Jonathan Brant, executive vice president of the national Interfraternity Conference, estimated that less than 1 percent of its 5,500 member fraternity houses bar alcohol.

Brant acknowledged that alcohol use will

continue to fall because of efforts to limit legal liability and abide by drinking laws, along with changing attitudes among students.

In fact, the few fraternities that bar alcohol don't do so voluntarily. Most have been forced to forgo booze because of past transgressions.

That was also the case for this Sigma Chi chapter, which the university nearly banned in 1991 for holding an illegal party while on probation for alcohol violations.

Back then, the "Sigs" had a reputation as some of the wildest parties on campus, and the 58-year-old chapter house on College Avenue had the scars to prove it. A basement wall was studded with glass shards from years of drinkers smashing beer bottles against it.

When national Sigma Chi proposed making the fraternity house dry after the illegal party, the only member willing to comply was Tyler Batteese. Batteese, who graduated and now lives in Florida, was personally

reviled in graffiti left behind by departing members.

A period now called the "renaissance" began at Sigma Chi. Instead of spending money on parties and alcohol, the fraternity took out a loan and invested \$250,000 in gutting the house and refurbishing it with a Persian rug, leather-upholstered furniture and a 45-inch television.

It has a basement library where civil engineering students spread out their work and a computer room on the second floor complete with laser printer and photocopying machine.

Many of the new Sigma Chi's disdained greek life before the chapter went dry. Some, like Fryer, say they had a tough time explaining their change of heart to their parents.

"Once you get your mother over here, you're set," said Doug McLean, 20, a chemical engineering major. "I think it bothers my mother that it's cleaner here than at my home."

## MENTOR

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which juniors and seniors interview alumni with similar majors and learn how those University graduates used their college degrees. The program is designed to help students who are nearing graduation gain confidence in their abilities, identify their strengths and analyze the requirements for their selected career.

"Students will learn how to present themselves to people with lots of experience in areas they are considering for careers," said Larry Smith, director of the Career Planning and Placement Service, which is

helping to sponsor the program.

Each class consists of five sessions. Students will spend the sessions selecting two mentors — ideally with the same majors — from alumni lists, learning how to write effective introduction letters and resumes, and practicing interview questions and techniques. Students also will give verbal presentations and turn in written reports about what they learned from interviewing their two selected mentor contacts.

The response from alumni regarding the program has been "very, very positive," Smith said.

The idea for the program evolved partly from students

involved with one of the event's co-sponsors — the Student University Relations Council — and from conversations between alumni and David Povey, a professor in urban and regional planning who is a faculty adviser to the University Alumni Association, which also is sponsoring the program.

"It appeared there was a need to form a stronger connection between our present students and those who had graduated from the University," Povey said.

Povey said that it's important for students to make connections with University graduates in the same field, and that both students and alumni are enthu-

siastic about the mentor program.

"Alumni have been really wonderful in their willingness to share time and energy with the students," he said.

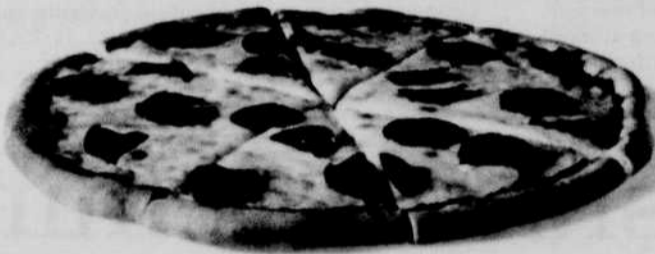
The Alumni Mentor Program is open to juniors and seniors, and students can register for one of the four classes via Duck Call.

The chemistry section meets 7 to 8:50 p.m. Wednesdays. The marketing section meets from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. The English section meets from 2 to 3:50 p.m. Fridays. The general section meets Thursdays.

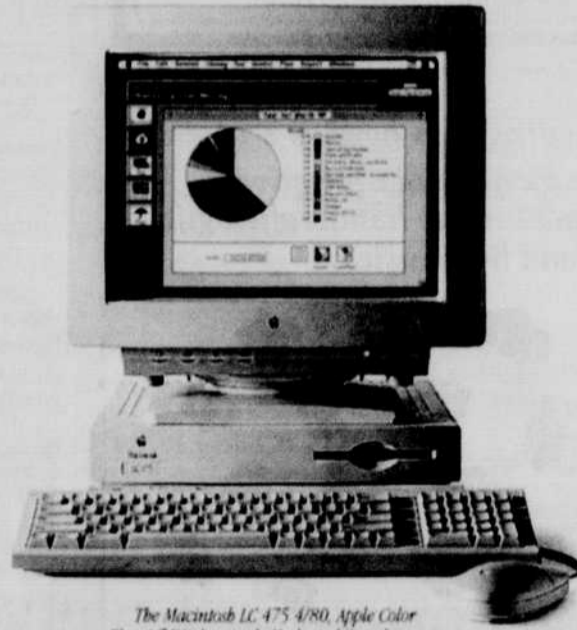
Each of the classes is worth one upper-division credit. For more information, call 346-2107 or 346-NEWS, ext. 9050.

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