Chair of Ideas finally organized

By PATTY SELSVOLD
Daily reporter writer

For nearly two years, the Chair of Ideas has been threatened with extinction by funding problems and the lack of a permanent organization responsible for it. The Chair of Ideas was initiated by students in the spring of 1969 in an effort to reinstate C. Barclay Kuhn, a political science instructor who had been fired. MSC’s Chair of Ideas is the only guest lecturer-in-residence program controlled by students in the country. Other schools have similar programs, but they are faculty dominated and controlled.

IN ITS TWO years of existence and non-existence, the Chair of Ideas has been under the control of a Campus Board of Regents, CUSA and the Student Senate. To help ensure its continued existence, the Student Senate recently approved new laws and established a permanent Board of Trustees of the Student Chair of Ideas.

The Board has the autonomy to select the Chair Holder, but it is ultimately held accountable to the Student Senate in that the Senate elects some Board members and approves or rejects the Board’s budget.

Of the nine voting members on the Board, six are students and three are faculty members. Student Senate appointees to the Board of Trustees are Florence Caister, Robin MacRostie, Stephan Voyles, John Williams and Dean Lenz, chairman of the Board. CUSA representative is Sue Chinberg, Paul Happe and Richard Galligan are the Faculty Senate representatives and Ronald Yezzi is the President’s representative.

THE TWO non-voting members of the Board of Trustees are Dr. Ross Alm and Dr. Robert Hopper, representing the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, respectively.

Among other things, the board will deal with two problems which arose during Al Huang’s term as Holder of the Chair of Ideas: the awarding of academic credit to students in classes and seminars taught by the guest lecturer and the payment of checks.

The Board of Trustees has proposed a $17,000 budget to cover both the salary of the Chair Holder for next year and miscellaneous expenses connected with the Chair’s activities. This budget proposal has been approved by the Student Senate and referred to the Student Allocations Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS are looking into the possibility of funding the Chair of Ideas with private or federal grants. Agencies that grant funds usually base their judgement on three criteria: 1) the program should be unique in some way, 2) guidelines for the program must be precise and clear, and 3) students should show a willingness to share in the burden of cost.

Mankato State’s Chair of Ideas appears to meet these three qualifications. It is unique in that it is basically student controlled. New by-laws establishing a permanent Board of Trustees set up precise and clear guidelines for the program. Student activity funds paid for Al Huang last fall and will pay for next year’s Chair holder or holders if the proposed budget is approved.

UNTIL THE FINAL action is taken on the budget, the Board of Trustees will be unable to hire anyone for the Chair. In the meantime, the Board plans to solicit suggestions for candidates for the Chair of Ideas from students and the faculty.

The Black Student Union has endorsed artist Alvin Carter for Holder of the Chair of Ideas. Other possible candidates, whose names have not yet been formally submitted to the Board, include Saul Alinsky, Ivan Tillich and Paul Goodman.

Relief program schedules 20 mile walk April 24

Sponsored by Spuratus, an honorary Sophomore women society, and Lutherans on campus, a 30 mile walk to raise money for Project Concern will be conducted on April 24. Project Concern is an independent non-profit medical relief program. The organisation has established hospitals, clinics, and medical centers in Hong Kong, South Vietnam, Mexico, and the U.S.

CURRENT PLANS of the program include establishing a drug-abuse center in California. The walk is scheduled to begin and end at Newman Center. Approved by the city council, the walk will have city police providing safety precautions.

All walkers will get people to sponsor their walking. The sponsors will pay an amount of money for every mile the walker completes. (The amount is decided between the walker and the sponsor.)

REFRESHMENTS WILL be provided along the walk route at the check points. At each check point the card which is given each walker will be punched to indicate that he’s made another mile.

Registration for the walk will be at 8 a.m. on the day of the walk at Newman Center and posted areas in the high schools and on campus.

For more information concerning the walk, please call 387-1939.