



Chris Medley/Daily Nebraskan

Higher ag salaries sought

By John Koopman

Quality education, the attracting and keeping of quality faculty and attracting quality graduate and undergraduate students emerged as the highest priorities in the Agriculture 2001 committee recommendations to the NU Board of Regents.

Regent John Payne of Kearney, chairman of the regents agriculture subcommittee, said the recommendations were consistent with the top priority of the board — raising all faculty salaries to the national norm.

Payne said the board plans to increase faculty salaries over a three-year period, upgrading at a rate of about 11 percent a year. NU Foundation donations will increase faculty salaries at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and implement other Agriculture 2001 recommendations, he said.

Payne said salaries and budget increases have slipped in recent years because Nebraska is lagging economically compared to other states.

Payne's comments were reiterated by the chairman of the Agriculture 2001 committee, Jim Roberts, owner of

Roberts' Cattle Co., Lexington.

Roberts stressed the need for more business education in the agricultural field and cited more emphasis on the use of computers, financial management and agri-business.

"We have to better prepare graduates to meet the challenges that will face them," he said.

Though he said he thinks many changes need to be made in IANR programs to meet the future, Roberts rated UNL high for using available funds in existing programs.

"They've had to pull in their belts," he said, "but they've done a good job overall."

Matt Wallace, ASUN president and member of the regents subcommittee on agriculture, said he thinks the call for higher faculty salaries by an outside party, such as Agriculture 2001, will give weight to calls for more money.

Wallace said the committee has credibility because it is not a special interest group, but rather a consensus from a variety of interests. He commended the committee for its far-sightedness and realistic approach.

IANR in need of funds, looks to NU foundation

By John Koopman

When the Agriculture 2001 committee gave its report to the NU Board of Regents on January 13, it listed six major areas that the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources needs to improve.

Roy Arnold, vice chancellor of IANR, said the program changes will take place in short-, medium-, and long-range plans, depending on the nature of each one.

The report should create a strong base that IANR can work from in the future, Arnold said. He said that Ag 2001's long-range views impressed him and other administrators.

The report listed improvements needed in faculty retention, marketing systems, water management, agrimanagement, biotechnological improvements and capital improvements.

Arnold listed how changes could occur:

- Individual faculty members could use the report as a guide to change their own research programs. Or they could change course of extension programs development.
- Departments within IANR could base course changes on the report.
- When faculty positions open, searches for new professors would be based on the report.
- IANR will look to the private sector for support by working with the NU Foundation to seek financial help. It will seek help for the improvements as

a whole or for separate improvements which may benefit a particular interest.

Since most of the changes would need more funds than IANR can give, money is the biggest question facing the improvements. Arnold said he didn't expect UNL's budget to increase dramatically, but that he believes the NU Foundation will provide support.

J. Robert Sandberg, vice president of the NU Foundation in charge of gift planning, will work with IANR to find private donations.

Sandberg said the foundation has an unofficial, in-house goal of \$25 million to raise in support of IANR improvements.

Sandberg said the foundation is trying to make the report results known both in and out of Nebraska. The staff will send out literature and reports to clarify the nature of Agriculture 2001 and to solicit gifts, he said.

"We kind of take it (agriculture) for granted," he said. "Over the years, the government has put a lot of money into it, but a public institution needs supplemental support from the private sector."

Older people who have worked in agriculture or ag-related industry are some of the foundation's targets, Sandberg said.

Since Nebraska is so agriculture oriented, Sandberg said, most people or institutions can donate something that will benefit their particular interests.

Ag priorities defined

The Agriculture 2001 committee was established last year by the NU Board of Regents to study trends affecting Nebraska agriculture and to make recommendations to strengthen the state's economic performance.

Led by Jim Roberts of Lexington, the committee consists of 150 people from across the state. Committee members were divided into six task forces to analyze and collect information and make recommendations.

The six priority areas are:

- The retention and attraction of quality faculty by upgrading salaries and providing a challenging academic atmosphere. Attracting more quality students, both graduate and undergraduate, also was considered important.
- The devotion of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources to agricultural marketing and use. Continued support for the Nebraska Food Center and the development of a Center for Transportation Studies.
- Major research emphasis on water management, water quality, conservation tillage and range and forest

management. Also recommended was development of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy.

- The establishment of an Agrimanagement Center to work directly with farm, ranch and business firms to help improve management techniques.

- The development of biotechnological research techniques and curriculum. Also, the expanded support of IANR's animal diagnostic services and establishment of the proposed Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

- Capital improvements such as the completion of the animal science building and creation of a Food Center, Agrimanagement Center, classroom improvement, improvements at IANR district stations and a Natural Resources Facility.

Other recommendations included incorporating the College of Home Economics with IANR and reducing duplication of research efforts among IANR and state and federal agencies, other NU units and industry.

Wesely takes job as pollster

By Stacie Thomas

Lincoln Sen. Don Wesely recently announced that he has accepted an executive associate position with Selection Research Inc. of Lincoln. SRI conducts public opinion surveys for businesses throughout the nation to enable those businesses to become aware of the needs of the public.

Wesely said he is excited about working for SRI because "it is a company of the future." Wesely said that although the Gallup and Harris polls are more known, they don't do as much as SRI in volume.

Another plus for SRI is that because it deals mainly with businesses outside Nebraska there won't be any conflict of interest for Wesely. Wesely plans to continue his work in the Legislature.

Max Larsen, executive vice president for SRI, said the company looks for people who have a deep commitment to principles and have the cour-

age to stand by those principles. Larsen said Wesely has demonstrated that he is very good in those areas.

Wesely began his new job Feb. 6 and said he will start working with hospital public opinion polls.

Wesely was elected to the Legislature in 1978. He earned a bachelor's degree in university studies from UNL and worked on a master's degree in history before leaving school to devote himself to the Legislature.

Although he worked several jobs while serving as a senator, Wesely said he never settled into anything with a career in mind because he had always intended to go to law school. Wesely said he realized he won't be going to law school after all, and SRI has given him the opportunity to form a career in another area.

Wesely said the additional income will help because the \$400 a month senator's salary is hard on a young family. Wesely and his wife Geri are expecting their first child in April.

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