



Photo by Mark Billingsley
Miles Tommeraasen

Tommeraasen charged by senators of conflict of interest-again

Although Miles Tommeraasen was appointed last February as a member of the board of directors of the Security Mutual Insurance Co., the appropriateness of the choice is being questioned again.

The choice of Tommeraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance, was approved by the NU Board of Regents but has since been challenged twice by the UNL Faculty Senate.

Last spring and again Tuesday, he was charged with possible conflict of interest by some senators.

UNL has been a large policy holder for 22 years with Security Mutual Insurance Co., 14 years before he took his current job.

Tommeraasen said although the policy has been rebid several times over the years, Security Mutual won in an open public bid conducted by the Faculty Senate. He had nothing to do with it, he said.

Michael Turner, Faculty Senate president, said the faculty has a right to express its concerns; but there is a timing consideration in this situation. The discussion of

Tommeraasen's possible conflict of interest raised last spring was not resolved by the end of the year and had to be continued at a meeting Tuesday.

The issue is complicated by the senate rules requiring that Steinman's proposal that Tommeraasen resign from his Security Mutual post to be held until October, Turner said.

He said this gives senators a chance to check with their constituents.

He said he believes the Faculty Senate should deal with the general part of Steinman's proposal stating that no administrator have a potential conflict of interest, instead of Tommeraasen specifically.

Tommeraasen said most companies holding large policies want, even insist on having someone on the insurance company's board of directors to keep an eye on them.

However, he said this logical attitude held by most companies is questioned as conflict of interest by the university.

New system could increase accuracy, flexibility

By Rod Murphy

A new information processing system, using data-based technology is planned for the University of Nebraska for the first semester of the 1979-80 school year, according to Robert Reid, assistant to the dean of academic affairs.

The change should increase accuracy of information, increase flexibility of the system and cut down on paper shuffling, Reid said.

The system will process information that might be needed on a student, including admissions, advising, registration, grades, schedules and addresses. Information will

be stored in a "single-file" or centralized form, Reid said.

The information system currently used is more decentralized, using magnetic tape, he said.

The current system seems to be accurate, especially in the area of grading, Reid said. However, "we have to jump a lot of hurdles to be accurate," he said.

The project now is in the general design phase, Reid said. The research team now is identifying the functions of general areas such as admissions, registration and grades. But no firm proposals have been made, he said.

One idea being considered would allow for continuous registration. Under this system a student would be able to register at his convenience anytime during about a six-month period, Reid said.

Such a change might solve some current problems with registration, he said. However it might create some new concerns, Reid said.

Another advantage of the system change would be help in scheduling classes, particularly courses not running the entire 15 week semester, he said.

"We will be able to respond better to faculty innovations," Reid said.

The current information project, started two years ago, will rely on increased computer support, he said.

The university has been interested in a new system for about 10 years, Reid said. Computer Data and IBM, two companies that sell computers, sent representatives to UNL a few years ago to suggest changes in the system. The University then decided to conduct its own research.

This research, called systems analysis, began with a top-down approach, Reid said. First it assessed what information was needed for the president, then the vice president, the chancellors and so on, he said.

The research identified 10 problem areas, of which student information and human resources (personnel) were considered most pressing, Reid said.

The other areas where changes were suggested were: credit instruction, research and artistic creativity, public services and extension, financial management, institutional planning and management, physical plant management, materials and service and alumni affairs.

No immediate plans to implement changes in these areas have yet been made, Reid said.

Wilderness bash

If wilderness is your thing, there is a party Sunday afternoon south of Lincoln that you should know about.

The Citizens to Preserve Wilderness Park, Inc. are sponsoring a "Wing-Ding" from 1 to 5 p.m. at McClure's Farm, one mile west of a flashing red light on U.S. Highway 77 south of Lincoln.

The Midwest Ramblers will entertain with country folk music and volleyball. There will be tours of the oldest building in Lancaster County, a barn on McClure's Farm. Hot dogs, beer, and soda pop will be available for a \$3 donation per person. Children under 12 eat free. Tickets are available at the Nebraska Union.

One dollar raffle tickets for a down jacket, sleeping bag and two back packs will be sold.

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