

UNL academics 'not that great'

In the midst of controversy over the University budget and student fees, the University's new top administrator took office Tuesday in what he called "certainly the most challenging job" of his life.

Describing UNL's academic situation as "not all that great," James H. Zumberge said one of his first tasks as chancellor will be to find out why the North Central Association extended NU's accreditation only five years instead of the normal 10.

Also the new vice president of the University of Nebraska system, Zumberge, 48, said there are bound to be conflicts of interest between the aspirations of UNL and UNO. The NU system should be regarded as a confederation, and each university should develop its own character, he added.

UNL probably will remain the major institution for graduate and professional studies in the system, he said, although the UNL graduate program needs to concentrate its funds on select areas rather than trying to do a little of everything.

Formerly the dean of the College of Earth Sciences at the University of Arizona, Zumberge said a major task as Chancellor will be to restore the public's confidence in the University and to close the credibility gap between the Legislature and the University.

There's a diversity of opinion



Photo by Gail Folda

Welcome to Big Red country . . . Prof. James Lake, new UNL Chancellor James Zumberge and Dean of Faculties C. Peter Magrath greet guests Tuesday at the reception held for Zumberge in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

between the many publics involved in a university community, he said. While students are impatient for change, members of his generation want to move more slowly.

Although there may be differences of opinions between students, taxpayers and other publics of the University, Zumberge said, "We've got to begin to think there is a common

denominator."

The Chancellor met with the Council on Student Life Tuesday evening to discuss issues facing CSL—student health, student fees and coed visitation.

Much of the controversy over coed visitation and student fees centers around whether the University should

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Board approves 'Justice' conference

The Regent-appointed Interim Program Arbitration Board (IPAB) said Monday that the proposed World In Revolution Conference should go on as planned.

Charged by ex-Interim Chancellor C. Peter Magrath to decide if the conference is balanced and in the best interest of the University, the panel's four members unanimously answered yes to both questions.

After learning of the decision, Magrath authorized Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett to sign contracts for the planned speakers.

Conference Chairman Dennis Berkheim said contracts will begin going out this week.

Addressing themselves to the question of balance, the IPAB members' written opinion said they determined the conference was "planned by groups whose method of membership selection, actual membership, procedures and methods of planning, and motivation have been fair, balanced and designed throughout to achieve a conference of diverse viewpoints upon the subject, 'Justice in America.'"

They also wrote they had determined the conference planning had "complied with University policies that are in support of sound and responsible program development."

IPAB members expressed

unwillingness to try to "prophesize" the possible outcome of proceeding with the conference.

IPAB members had been warned by several students at an open meeting last Wednesday that they believed staging the World In Revolution Conference would call down legislative wrath and lead to the passage of LB 1271.

That bill would deny state money to any Nebraska college that collects mandatory student fees.

The IPAB refused to postpone the conference because "in all probability the same persons and groups scheduled to appear would not do so at a later date."

They also wrote they believed that some students who planned to attend the conference would not be here next fall, so would be denied the chance to attend.

The board also determined it is too late to attempt to set up the apparatus to fund this conference with non-student-fee money.

Finally, the statement read, "We believe this conference has substantial educational value. We conclude its subject is important, timely and appropriate for University treatment."

One IPAB member, Law Professor James Lake, said the board's job was complicated by the "great time problem" and the lack of precedent under which they could act.

Another member, ASUN President Steve Fowler, said he believes "all of the University programming procedures are totally adequate to insure a proper conference."

"I see no reason for an arbitration board," he said.

Union Board President Kerry Winterer, also a member, said he won't "feel comfortable about it until after Saturday," the date of the next Board of Regents meeting.

Aged benefit from projects

Editor's note—This is the second in a series of articles concerning themselves with the way the problems of aging are dealt with in society.

by Carol Strasser

Winter weather, at times an inconvenience for some Nebraskans, can mean tragedy for the aged.

Going outdoors to buy food becomes an added burden, especially when there's only one mouth to feed. A diet of cereal or whatever's handy is much simpler.

The result is an increased number of elderly who are suffering from malnutrition admitted to hospitals in the winter months, according to Ronald L. Jensen of the Nebraska Commission on Aging.

One hot nutritional meal a day can make the difference between independence and the nursing home, Jensen said.

The Commission, through a model project in Lincoln and others to be developed throughout the state, is attempting to provide services to the elderly which can mean an alternative to the nursing or rest home.

A quarter-million dollar federal grant to the commission last year was earmarked for use by a Lincoln-area council on aging to develop a coordinated network of services and activities for the elderly, Jensen said.

Existing agencies as well as volunteers are included in the network which provides home health care, homemaker and handyman service, special transportation and telephone reassurance, checking on the elderly once a day.

Drop-in-meals at school cafeterias or meals-on-wheels, a service directly to the elderly person's home, insure the aged will receive one hot balanced meal a day.

Approved by federal authorities last week, the Lincoln-area project will begin serving people in a month, Jensen said. By spring, the project will have a "fully-operational area network of services to serve as an alternative to institutionalization" for the elderly, he added.

The project will be limited to about 1,700 people over 75 years old who "are on the brink of losing their independence."

On Feb. 1, the Commission began conducting area conferences on aging for 10 weeks to brief local officials on the kinds of federal support available to fund area-wide projects.

Jensen said the commission can give grants to help initiate and develop urban, county or multicounty programs on the Lincoln-area model.

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