

Regents to ask Legislature for \$440,000

by Sara Schwieder

The Board of Regents unanimously approved a resolution Saturday to request \$440,000 from the Legislature to help the University (UNL) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha liquidate its \$1.4 million budget deficit.

"It is not inappropriate to ask the Legislature to help us with the impact of LB 408," President D. B. Varner told the board at its monthly meeting, held for the first time in the new Systems Building across from East Campus.

LB 408 was passed by the Legislature last session. It allows non-resident students to claim Nebraska residency if certain qualifications are met. Nearly 200 nonresident students—with more

expected—changed to resident status, depriving UNL of \$248,000 of the \$440,000 lost in tuition.

Regent Robert Prokop of Papillion asked what would happen if the Legislature refused the University's request. Varner said the administration would "take whatever painful steps they have to," in that case. Among the "painful steps" are expenditure reductions meaning cut-backs of programs, use of excess grant funds or excess financial aid money. A special student assessment is unlikely. Varner announced at last month's meeting that hiring new faculty would be suspended because of the deficit.

In other action, the board okayed further investigation of University use of the former Hiram Scott College campus in Scottsbluff. A rural Health

Education Center which would focus on rural community health care was suggested as a possible use for the campus. A second suggestion was that the campus be used for educational programs related to agriculture and rural Nebraska.

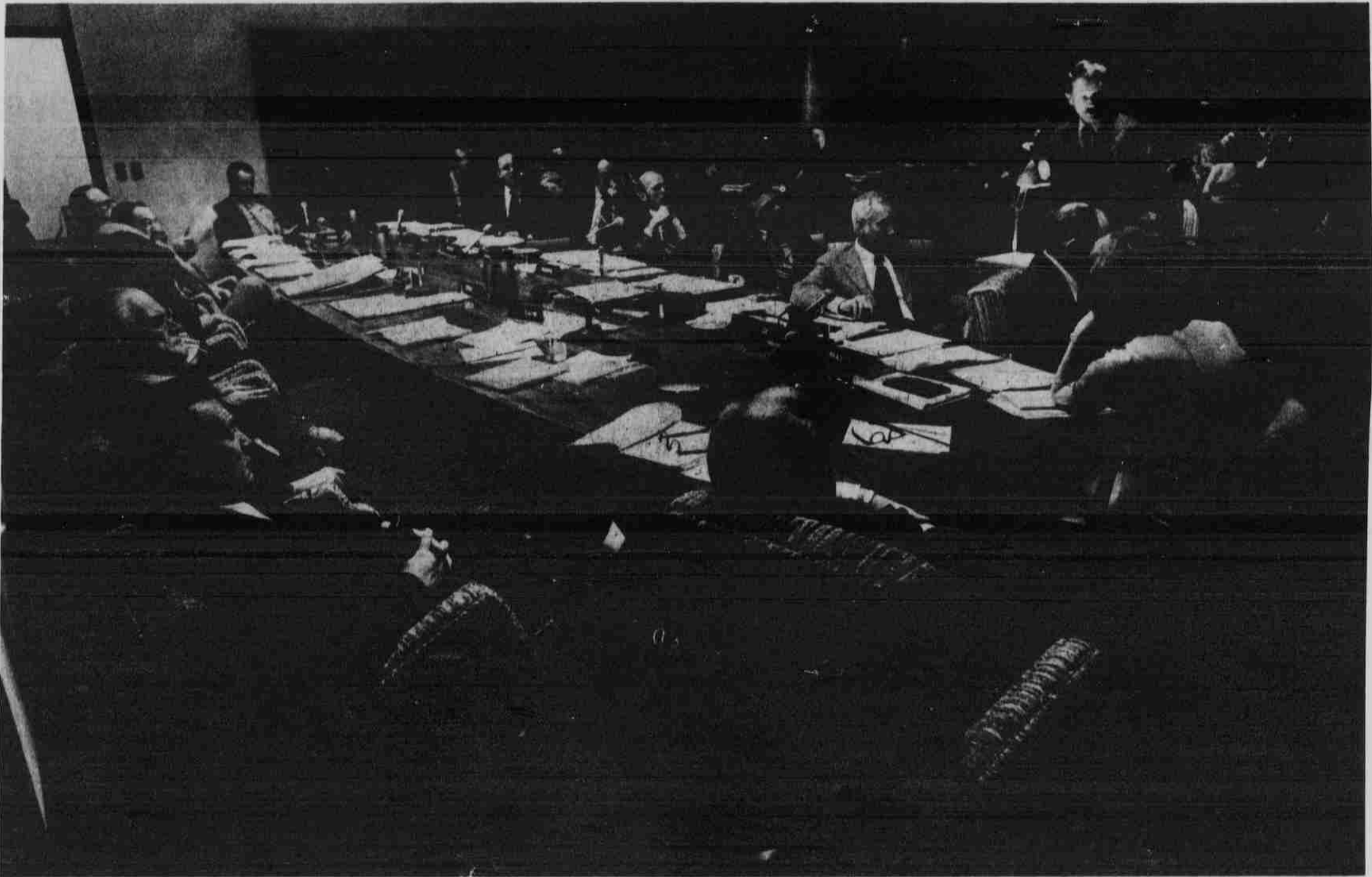
The project could eventually become a regional one, with states surrounding the area contributing students and helping to finance it, according to UNO Chancellor Robert Sparks of the Medical Center. A meeting is scheduled in early January between Gov. J. J. Exon and Gov. Stan Hathaway of Wyo. to discuss the proposal, Vice Chancellor Howard Neville told the board.

Following the report on the Hiram Scott campus, the Board briskly moved on to adopt University Bylaws

in their final form. Only minor changes were made in the version published and distributed to the campus a month ago. The bylaws represent the chief governing regulations of the University system, and will go into effect on January 2, 1973. There was no discussion on the Bylaws Saturday before the board voted unanimously to adopt them. It has been 2½ years since the By-laws overhaul was begun by the Governance Commission.

After the vote on the Bylaws, Vice Chancellor Howard Neville gave the board a complicated financial report on "student support on the campuses," which compared UNL and UNO financial status.

Neville said there was "a
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The new Systems Building . . . housed its first Regents meeting Saturday.

photo by Bill Ganzel

Board continues rural health study

by Sara Schwieder

The Board of Regents Saturday okayed further study of a proposal for a Rural Health Education Center at the Former Hiram Scott College campus in Scottsbluff. The campus was offered to the University for its use by the Citizens Committee for the University of Nebraska at Scottsbluff, which bought the land and has offered it at no cost.

In a report to the board, administrators suggested that the site may lend itself to the development of a rural health center of regional scope. Gov. J. J. Exon was termed "enthusiastic" and willing to work with the University on the project. Vice President Howard Neville said Exon had made an appointment to see Gov. Stan Hathaway of Wyoming about inter-state cooperation on the project. Wyoming doesn't have a medical school.

"There are no existing health programs in Western Nebraska. Medical Center Chancellor Robert Sparks told the board during its informal session Saturday morning. "Most programs are based in hospitals. We could be involved in bring them together in a higher education project."

Administrators stipulated that (1) the educational program must be within the competence of the University, (2) that it not compete directly with other programs in the western part of the state and (3) that the prime emphasis be toward new directions for the University and/or the region, according to a memo from Neville to the board.

The memo also states that emphases should "include the development of educational programs for minorities in the region in cooperation with other institutions of higher education."

Programs in radiology, medical technology, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and hospital and nursing home administration were suggested.

The memo suggests that a second use for the facility could be graduate or summer school work in agriculture.

The center would be primarily oriented toward health care in rural areas because of continuing problems in recruiting physicians for the small communities, Neville's memo said.

"It would be our expectation that the program might develop into a 'model' regional rural health education program," the memo states. "Existing affiliation agreements between the University Medical Center and area hospitals could serve as the base for an enlarged training program for family practitioners."

University President D. B. Varner said he's talked

to the National Institute of Health, Gov. J. J. Exon, State Sen. Terry Carpenter, officials of Nebraska Western College in Scottsbluff and officials at Chadron State College, and that everyone had expressed approval and had promised cooperation.

"We must be certain that there's adequate funding and no competition with other colleges," Sparks told the Regents during Saturday's open meeting. "It underscores cooperation with health people in the area."

Administrators said that the Legislature would not be asked for money for the project. The cost of renovating the facility would be between \$250,000 and \$350,000, Neville said. Annual operating expense for the education program for the first year would be \$650,000. Operating cost might double or triple depending on the number of students and programs.

Neville estimated that a first year appropriation of \$840,000 should allow for renovation, operating costs, planning and perhaps beginning some of the educational programs.

Administrators said no "new money" should be involved in the project, that it should come out of the regular University appropriation and that it should not be at the expense of current educational programs at the University.

"I want to re-emphasize that we're just exploring possibilities, not making formal recommendations on what might be done with the facilities," Sparks concluded.