

## Varner: Exon budget ignores needs

By Gina Hills

NU President D.B. Varner told the NU Board of Regents Saturday that the budget proposed by Gov. J. James Exon "ignores" the development of Areas of Excellence and the university's plan to raise salaries.

"Our highest priority was to get our faculty salaries up to" the parity levels in the Big 8 Conference, he said.

In addition, last year's budget requested that NU "come back with" areas of academic excellence this year, Varner said.

He said raising salaries, developing Areas of Excellence and improving rural health programs would require \$6.2 million more than the governor proposed.

Varner also said Exon proposed \$3.4 million for capital construction, while \$12.9 million was requested. The legislative fiscal analyst proposed \$5.8 million.

"We need to trim down our aspiration of capital facilities. Enrollment may stay where it is, but there isn't going to be the growth that there has been in the past 10 to 15 years," Varner said.

"We can't build all the buildings everyone dreams of," he added. "But improvements and additions are needed."

### Employe file approved

In other action, the regents approved Varner's recommendation that the regents cooperate in developing the proposed Nebraska Employees Information System, a data file which would contain personal and budgetary information on all state employes.

But he said he has "deep philosophical reservations" about the file because it would be available to nonuniversity members and could be used in an

unscrupulous manner if it fell into the wrong hands.

The Legislature approved the system, which is being developed and maintained by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

"Increasingly, the Board of Regents is losing control of the management function of the university," Varner said. And he said this system is perhaps the first step in taking complete control away from the board.

The next step would mean no one gets appointed until someone beyond the board approves the appointment, Varner said.

### Duplicate information

In addition, he said it would be unnecessary and time consuming because it would duplicate information already kept by the university and would have to be changed every time there are alterations.

But Regent Robert Simmons Jr. of Scottsbluff asked why the public should be kept from discovering information about university officials. He said the public should be allowed to know whatever NU knows about its employes.

Varner said the files would contain much personal information about the employes, to which only university officials should have access.

Varner also said he hopes the regents cooperate "with the understanding that any additional cost incurred will be covered by" nonuniversity funds. He added that the "rights of privacy should be protected" and that there will be "no further erosion of the power of the board."

### SUN proposal approved

Varner's proposal that the State University of Nebraska (SUN) ask the

unicameral for \$157,790 to expand its college-at-home program in 1975-76 was also approved.

Varner said he had hoped the federal government would give money to the SUN program, but the federal money was allotted instead to the University of Mid America, an outgrowth of the SUN program.

UNL Chancellor James Zumberge gave a progress report on the East Campus Union and said bids would be received in time for the April regent's meeting.

"I'm glad we're making progress. We've been working on it for 25 years...since I was a student here," Regent Robert Raun of Minden said.

### Zumberge appointment

The board also approved the appointment of Zumberge to the board of directors of the First National Bank of Lincoln.

Varner said it would be good experience for Zumberge as long as it doesn't interfere with his job. "It would be a rich learning experience about how a business operates," he added.

Other appointments made by the board included Kenneth Hubble formerly acting director at the University Health Center (UHC) and John Newton past interim dean of the UNO College of Arts and Sciences.

Hubble received the permanent title of executive director of UHC, and Newton was appointed dean of the UNO College of Arts and Sciences.

As UHC director, Hubble will make \$39,500 a year while Newton, as dean, will make \$28,000.



John Newton, above, dean of the UNO College of Arts and Sciences and Kenneth Hubble, executive director of the UNL Health Center.



## Regents: religious cards to remain

The NU Board of Regents decided at their informal meeting Friday religious preference cards still should be distributed and collected along with student registration materials.

The board's decision overrides the recent suggestion by UNL administrators that the cards be eliminated in an attempt to "streamline" registration procedures.

UNL law student Doug Voegler had called for elimination of the cards in an ASUN report compiled after two months of research. The report said including the cards in registration materials "evidences a less than neutral stance by UNL."

By distributing the cards UNL violated the principle of separation of church and state, Voegler said.

Regent James Moylan of Omaha said the allegations of church-state separation were "absolute nitpicking" and that, unless

the cards were illegal, they should be continued.

The Rev. Leonard Kalin of the Catholic Newman Center and the Rev. Alvin Petersen, pastor of the Lutheran Student Foundation, favored including religious preference cards in registration packets.

They said they wanted to know how many students were members of their denominations and added that the cards were used only for fact-gathering.

The cards are paid for by the Association of Campus Ministers. When they are delivered to the registration office, machines stuff them into pre-registration packets.

UNL personnel separate the cards when they are returned and a member of the ministers' association picks them up. Filling out the cards is optional, and they are not intended to convert anyone, the Rev. Mr. Petersen said.

## Teacher: UNL students need to improve reading, study skills

By Paula Damke

Although 1974 NU freshmen scored higher than the national average on the verbal portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Kay Felton said she is convinced NU students need to improve reading skills.

Felton teaches a seven-week noncredit course in the Extension Division to help college students improve reading skills. She enrolls 120 students a year.

lower national verbal score indicates all college students are having problems with basic reading skills.

The original mean score of 500 in SAT exams was developed in 1941 and has declined steadily, she said.

The University of Colorado is the only other Big 8 school to use the SAT. The other six conference schools use American College Tests (ACT).

### Colorado freshmen score 565

Information obtained from American University and Colleges, 11th edition, 1973, shows the mean score of entering University of Colorado freshmen as 565 on the verbal portion of the SAT while UNL freshmen scored 473, she said.

Felton said her main concern now is not whether "Papik's figures or mine are correct, but rather the development of reading skills for UNL students.

"Irrespective of how students score, the major point is that there is much value in a course which enhances the reading and study skills of students," she said.

Felton said all her students have doubled their reading skills and some have quadrupled them.

"What we work on is concentration of the reading," Felton said.

The 120 students come voluntarily to improve their reading ability. One college dropout who enrolled in the course came back to school and earned straight A grades, Felton said.

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Felton was quoted in a Feb. 11 Lincoln Journal article as saying "the majority of UNL students cannot read as well as most other college students."

### National mean 438

She said she based her statement on an SAT national mean score of 500, which would have put UNL students below the national average. She has since discovered that the national average is 438, not 500.

Recent reports released by Al Papik, NU admission director, show 1974 NU freshmen with a mean score of 471 on the verbal portion of the SAT.

Regardless of the test scores, Felton said, the

