

# Principals visiting UNL today

If you see your high school principal strolling around campus today, don't fear—he's only attending UNL's twentieth annual Principal-Freshman Conference.

More than 450 counselors, principals and department heads from 250 Nebraska high schools will meet throughout the day with university freshmen and staff members to establish better communication and preparation between secondary schools and the university.

According to Al Papik, UNL director of admissions, the high school personnel will have the opportunity to attend three of 20 discussion topics presented by the university faculty from 8 to 11:40 a.m. These sessions deal with curriculum offerings and changes, housing, financial aid, advanced placement and registration.

Duane Acker, vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will be the speaker at a luncheon in the Union Ballroom at 11:50 a.m.

During the afternoon, the high school representatives will confer with freshmen now at the university to aid them in rating their schools' preparations for college.

Papik said these meetings will help high school administrators see problem areas in their schools.

"This conference has a definite effect on what secondary education is doing to prepare students for college curriculum," he said.

# DGs and Sigma Nu finally get a hang-up

Parting was not quite sweet sorrow as members of the Delta Gamma sorority said good-bye to members of the Sigma Nu fraternity after talking on the phone for the longest continuous period in history.

According to Pete Hill, coordinator of the Talk-a-thon, the two houses spent a total of 768 hours talking to one another and raised almost \$3,000, to contribute to the St. Elizabeth Regional Burn and Trauma Unit.

The phone call, which began on February 15 at 1 p.m. and ended Wednesday, at 2 p.m. surpassed the world's record at 6 p.m. Monday, Hill said.

The houses worked in one-hour shifts, with each person talking nearly 13 hours.

Hill said conversations ranged from "how long do you have to talk?" to studying out loud. He said persons were not allowed to sleep or just sit but had to keep talking.

He said a special telephone line was installed by the Lincoln Telephone Company as a donation to the project.

Members solicited donations from Lincoln business, he said, and some donations were received from other Greek houses.

Donations for the Sigma Nu-Delta Gamma Talk-a-thon will still be taken throughout March, Hill said. Persons wishing to make donations can call the Sigma Nu house or the Delta Gamma house.

# Higher education coordination recommended

By Ron Wylie

Nebraska colleges could make better use of the state's educational resources by means of a permanent coordinating committee, the state's Coordinating Council for Postsecondary Education reported last week.

The council's report acknowledges "there is no strong demand in Nebraska, from educators, the Legislature, or the public for coordination of higher education programs," but, the council said the recommendations for a coordinating committee "reflect the desire to make maximum use of educational resources and dollars to support the state's educational needs."

Upon receipt of the commission's work, Gov. J. James Exon said he was satisfied with the report and has submitted legislation (LB579) to create a permanent, independent Nebraska Coordinating Commission of Higher Education.

## 1202 Commission

Appointed by Exon for a one-year study of higher education, the coordinating council, known as the 1202 Commission, reported areas of possible coordination include data collection, combined studies on enrollment trends, and funneling of state and federal funds for similar programs within the state's school system.

The State University of Nebraska's (SUN) relationship with state schools and their course offerings is another area recommended by the 1202 Commission for coordination as well as educational planning for the Omaha area colleges and universities.

The commission report stressed the importance of relating coordination work to all forms of postsecondary education in the state, including technical school and proprietary school interests. The authority of such an agency should spring more from the leadership and service provided than from powers legally granted, the commission said.

## Master education plan

A coordinating commission should be able to establish a master plan for state education, the report stated, and should be helpful to member schools in evaluation of academic programs, capital construction and budgeting and finance programs. Such a plan, the commission reported, would facilitate sharing of resources and joint planning of educational programs.

The organization plan calls for a commission of 15 members, nine appointed by the governor, five representing the state's higher education institutions and the state Commissioner of Education.

Eighteen of the 19 council members favored the establishment of the coordinating commission as expressed in the report and as proposed in LB579. Omaha banker and NU Board of Regents member Kermit Hansen abstained, explaining his vote in a minority report included in the 1202 study.

Hansen said he abstained because he wants the state to establish a centralized governing board for higher education which will incorporate the functions of the Board of Regents, and the directors of the state college and technical community college boards.

## Superboard

Hansen said such a superboard of education would provide top level management of each of the

institutions involved while allowing the maximum amount of local freedom of operation.

And for private institutions, Hansen said, "it would serve as a forum and coordinating body. It could make recommendations, but would have no role in private budgeting."

Commission Chairman James O'Hanlon said Wednesday, "our plan is to have a coordinating board doing things that aren't currently being done, rather than assuming any responsibilities already being held by some institution."

O'Hanlon said there had been some reservations on the council concerning the creation of another state agency, but stressed, "that's why we've recommended that the staff be kept small, so that it can just function for coordination and planning."

## Expects planning debate

He said he expects the legislative debate over LB579 to be concerned with how a coordinating program may be devised. "Almost everyone realizes the need for a plan, we'll just have to settle on how to do it."

And, at the time he asked for the legislation to create the agency, Exon said the commission would be primarily an advisory committee.

"I know that this program is without a great deal of teeth," he said, "but at least it's a step in the right direction toward coordination of higher education."

Referring to Hansen's proposal, Exon said he didn't think it was possible to create a superboard and was doubtful Nebraskans would ever have one.

LB579 is scheduled for public hearing before the Unicameral's Education Committee March 24.

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