



Wilbur Regent Robert Prokop, UNL Student Regent Jim Say and Regent attorney Warren Johnson attended Saturday's formal regents meeting where a pro football game in Memorial Stadium and an East Campus Student Center, among other things, were discussed.

Photos by Steve Goerner

Regents approve pro game, new student center

By Gina Hills

A pro football game between the Baltimore Colts and the Atlanta Falcons scheduled for Aug. 16 in Memorial Stadium received approval from the NU Board of Regents at their formal meeting Saturday.

Estimated expense for the game was about \$40,000 and the university and the two teams would split any profit. In addition, the regents noted that the game complies with Big Eight Conference rules and would take place prior to the start of the UNL football season.

The regents also approved the construction of a \$4.3 million East Campus Student Center, which will be financed by revenue bonds.

2001 deadline

The bonds will be allowed to run until the year 2001 and will be paid off by student fees, said Warren (Bud) Johnson, attorney for the board.

About 100 UNL students attended the informal regents meeting Friday at 8 p.m. to voice opinions on the proposed 25 cent charge for intercampus bus rides.

They told the regents that persons taking classes on both campuses could end up paying \$100 a year for bus fare.

Now, students with bus passes or 10 cents can ride the bus. The system is supported by funds from parking permits and reportedly operates at a deficit.

The board also discussed the financing, operating costs and status of the new fieldhouse. An estimated \$590,000 is

needed for one year's operation, said Bill Swanson, corporate secretary.

Daily use

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf, of Lincoln said he saw a need for intercollegiate sports and the daily use of the fieldhouse for practice.

But Scottsbluff Regent Robert Simmons said the fieldhouse is the "biggest white elephant we've got, and the university could be better off if it didn't have anything to do with it."

Omaha Regent Kermit Hansen said he would like to see the building separated from the board and still let the university "have something to do with it." He agreed with Wilber Regent Robert Prokop's suggestion for creating a governing board composed of regents and State Fair Board members.

UNL Chancellor James Zumberge said, "The athletic director would be very disappointed" if he had to reserve the fieldhouse every time he needed it.

Separate financing

The board decided to continue seeking separate financing, and asked Swanson to investigate the alternatives.

In addition, the board approved NU President D.B. Varner's recommendations for faculty promotions but postponed action on his tenure recommendations until the May meeting.

Schwartzkopf, chairman of the regent's academic affairs committee, reported that the committee was concerned "over the percentage of tenured faculty within the

university as a whole and within the Lincoln campuses in particular."

This postponement means 18 Medical Center and 154 UNL teachers may not receive tenure until next month.

Schwartzkopf said in hopes that NU will continue bringing young faculty members into the system, the committee recommends that Zumberge devise a plan to insure the number of tenured faculty at UNL won't exceed 75 per cent of the total number eligible.

Tenure plan

This plan, a study of tenure policies, and a recommendation to the board to reduce the tenure percentage in the next few years, will be presented to the regents next month.

In other business, Swanson presented a legislative update.

He said the 5 per cent of salary plus \$468 faculty salary plan passed the Unicameral and is awaiting approval by the governor.

The outcome of the plan should be known next week, he said, but there are "indications that the governor will veto."

In addition, Varner said he was concerned that the Appropriations Committee only recommended \$142,836 for UNL rather than the almost \$600,000 he requested.

UNO Chancellor Ronald Roskens said the amount of tuition generated from out-of-state students is much smaller at UNO than in the past.

More residents

Total credit hours are increasing, but more students are paying resident tuition, he

said. The money Varner requested is necessary to make up for anticipated tuition losses, he said.

Varner also said he was disappointed that agriculture research received only about \$450,000 rather than \$3.4 million he requested.

"We believe research programs are vital to the future of the university," he said. "The university has been a leader in agricultural extension... and it would be an embarrassment to the state if we said we weren't interested."

Regent Robert Raun of Minden added that without research, there wouldn't be anything to teach, and said teaching is a primary emphasis of the university.

In other business, the board approved a 12.2 per cent increase in room rates at the University Hospital in Omaha to become effective May 1.

The board also approved the proposals for furnishing and installing carpeting in Harper-Schram-Smith Residence Halls and an elevator in the Foods and Nutrition Building on East Campus.

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