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## New visitation passed

Liberalization, violation, confusion and continuation were the order at this summer's NU Board of Regent meetings.

Approval of a modified UNL residence hall visitation policy, violation of the new Nebraska open meetings law, confusion of the board's legal relationship to the Nebraska Legislature and continuance of UNL's policy of distributing complimentary football tickets were among the actions taken by the board.

At its first summer meeting in June, the board approved 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. visitation hours, effective this fall, for UNL residence halls. Last semester visitation hours were from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Liberalization of the policy passed only after prolonged discussion and several vote changes.

### Rather decrease

Regent Robert Koefoot from Grand Island said he would rather "decrease the number of hours instead of increase them." Omaha Regent James Moylan agreed.

Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf also opposed the liberalized visitation. Regent Robert Prokop from Wilber abstained.

The policy change failed by one vote on the first count.

Koefoot offered to change his vote (which would pass the recommendation) if Ken Bader, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, who sponsored the change, would promise not to raise the visitation issue for one year.

While Bader replied this would be a difficult promise for him to make because students and their needs always are changing, Prokop changed his vote, giving the proposal the one vote it needed to pass.

### Violated law

After the meeting, Lancaster County Attorney Ron Lahners said the board had violated Nebraska's new open meeting law.

The board had met with NU Athletic Director Bob Devaney in an unannounced closed meeting before the formal session.

However, Lahners decided not to prosecute the board because he said his

investigation revealed board members did not "knowingly" break the law.

During the June meeting, the regents also decided to go to court for a judicial determination of the constitutional division of powers between the regents and the Nebraska Legislature.

### Legal questions

Warren Johnson, the board's attorney, said there are serious legal questions about the state's ability to direct the regents' actions regarding employe practices, construction contracts, building plans, purchases, expenditures and bequests.

In recent years there has been a trend toward more control by the Legislature, he said.

At the July meeting, the regents decided that UNL's policy of distributing complimentary football tickets would not change this year.

Prokop, chairman of the ticket committee, recommended that the student regents be given two season tickets in students sections and 10 season tickets in the stadium.

The other regents are eligible to receive the same number, but their tickets are issued in the press box.

### Budget increase

This summer the board also gave its support to and agreed to ask the 1976 Legislature for a 20 per cent budget increase sought by NU president D.B. Varner.

The \$15 million increase would boost the university's share of state tax money from \$76.2 million to more than \$90 million. In his report to the board, Varner said NU could make a strong case for a substantially larger increase in tax dollars.

Specific budget figures will be presented to the regents at their September 6 meeting in Omaha. The proposed budget will be presented to the Legislature early next year.

In other action this summer the board approved the construction of a new \$1.1 million plant science building on East Campus.



If you don't know Randy Beyer, you should

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432-8843

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