

Director appointed for Life Sciences

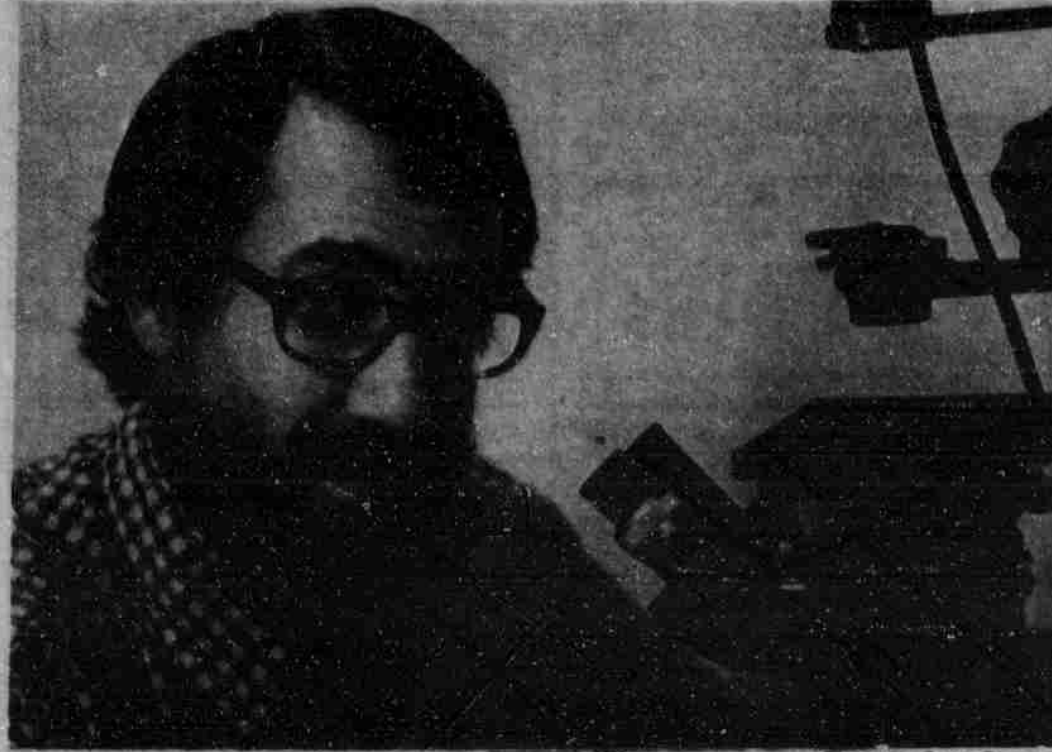


Photo by Steve Boerner

Russel Meints, new director, School of Life Sciences

The UNL School of Life Sciences has not had a permanent leader since it was organized three years ago, but a five-year director was appointed Saturday.

Russel Meints, UNL zoology professor, officially was named to head the school by the NU Board of Regents. The appointment came after three years of interim directors and work by two search committees.

Meints, who headed the last search committee, became director Aug. 18, after being with UNL for 10 years.

Seven candidates

While he was on the search committee, Meints said, seven director candidates came to UNL, but the university was unable to keep them.

"I can only guess, but I don't think the university met their expectations," he said.

UNL's School of Life Sciences was organized to manage recent changes in biological sciences and was named one of UNL's six Areas of Excellence by the Legislature.

"With the strong support from the administration and regents for the School of Life Sciences, I think we have a strong beginning for building a true 'Area of Excellence,'" Meints said.

According to Meints, the excellence program is planned to continue within the school.

Advising studied

He said he doesn't plan any immediate changes within the school, but is conducting studies in the school's advising, pre-med and graduate and undergraduate programs.

Construction of the new School of Life Sciences Bldg., west of Hamilton Hall, should help the school's research projects, Meints said.

"It (the School of Life Sciences Bldg.) probably won't be done for at least 12 to 18 months, and the current problems with inflationary costs may delay it even more," he said.

Inflation already has erased an auditorium from the building, Meints said.

"We hope to go before the Legislature in the spring session to see if we can get extra funding for it (the auditorium)," he said.

In addition to the auditorium, almost all the movable equipment planned for the new building is being canceled, Meints said.

"We plan to ask the regents for \$500,000 so we can still get the most needed equipment," he said.

Professors in the school should be granted sabbatical leave, Meints suggested.

"The university needs to have interaction with other science departments at other universities," he said. "If professors were given sabbatical leave, this goal could be accomplished."

Medical schools' fund cuts forces revenue search

By Rex Seline

A cutback in federal funds to Nebraska's two medical schools has forced a search for another source of revenue and may mean higher tuition for students, according to officials from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and Creighton University.

The Medical Center will be seeking \$2.8 million from the Legislature to cover the losses. But a tuition raise "is always a possibility" if enough funds are not available, said Peter Boughn, assistant to UNMC Chancellor Robert Sparks.

Creighton will be forced to raise tuition, but will try to avoid "pricing ourselves out of the market of many students we'd like to have" by seeking other sources of funds, according to Dr. Robert Heaney, vice president for Creighton Health Sciences.

\$960 fee

UNMC students who are Nebraska residents currently pay \$960 annually. Creighton charges \$3,600 yearly for both residents and nonresidents.

Boughn estimated that the Medical Center will suffer a \$1.6 million loss of revenue from the federal government, money for individual research projects, although those funds are declining, too," Boughn said.

Some of the losses are funds which are granted to all health schools according to how many students they have, he said.

Political decision

Boughn said the cutback was a result of budget discussions in Washington and declined to speculate on why the government proposed the decrease.

Heaney said he heard that the federal government, "for one reason or another,"

had been trying to cut back on its deficit.

"I've been told, and I'm not an economist, that 80 per cent of the federal budget is technically uncontrollable," Heaney said. "That means there items that can't have their funds cut in any way."

"So I understand they're going to make cuts in the items they can control even if they are important items."

The health professions were picked because of an attitude in the government hierarchy, he said.

"I think there's a feeling in the federal government that people in the health professions make a bundle when they're through with school, so they don't need their education subsidized," Heaney said.

"But students can't finance their education on future production," he said. "Banks can't give loans large enough to pay the costs. It may get to the point where only rich kids can go."

No state help

Unlike UNMC, Creighton cannot get state funds because it is a private school. According to Heaney, UNMC has many

vacancies for Nebraskans in its classes, so the Legislature does not need to pay Creighton to insure enough Nebraskans get a health education.

Some states which do not have state medical schools pay private schools to educate state residents, he said.

Creighton also faces difficulty because it doesn't have a large endowment like some schools which serve "a national function," according to Heaney.

Makes it tough

"Schools with a big endowment can ride out the financial crunch much better. It makes it tough for a school like Creighton," he said.

The Omaha school stands to lose about \$3 million, he added.

Creighton is cutting expenses and "trying to do our best to cut so we don't hurt our programs," Heaney said. "But it will be tough because we're already running a tight ship."

The school also will be forced to pass more of the costs of its clinic programs on to the patients, he said.

UNL enrollment swells

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Bader cited late registration as a reason for apparent disorganization, saying many students came at the last minute.

"There is a feeling we are needed, that we are a valuable enterprise," Sample said.

Bader said last year might have been the peak year for high school graduates and each year colleges see more high school graduates enroll. He said he thinks enrollment will reach a peak in the next few years and level off by 1978.

'Good investment'

"No one can take away the fact that a college education is a good investment," Bader said. "Those who can't find jobs may feel it is worthwhile."

How does a nonworking student afford college? Bader said the answer is the increasing amount of financial aid given to students.

Knowledge of the university also may be a reason for increased enrollment. UNL admissions office programs include registration centers, high school counselor meetings and high school visitations.

Job preparation

Citing increased UNL enrollment in the colleges of business administration, engineering, agriculture, arts and sciences and home economics, Bader said this "is evidence that more students are thinking of their academics in terms of job preparation." He said fewer students are entering Teacher's College because they realize the supply has exceeded the demand.

Sample said he believes more students are reevaluating the worth of a college education.

"For a long time there has been a strong emphasis on vocational training which has carried over to the university level, and there were always implications that a university degree led to a professional career. An old and long-observed reason for coming is that of living one's life as an edu-

cated person," he said.

He and Bader said a liberal arts education is important.

William Erskine, NU Vice President of the Administration, said extra tuition money generated from increased enrollment will help support instruction, which does not necessarily mean hiring more teachers.

Minority enrollment

Minority enrollment also is up. Jimmy Smith, director of minority affairs, said he estimated a 75-student increase this year, so about 400 to 425 minority students are enrolled at UNL.

Smith said there are several grants for the low-income student recently graduated from high school.

The Basic Educational Opportunity Grant is the best source of funds for the nonathlete minority student and does not need to be paid back, he said.

The college work-study program, paid for with federal funds, defrays basic university expenses, Smith said.

A nonstate appropriation called the National Direct Student Fund is another form of aid. Others include tuition waivers, regents scholarships, loans and awards from anonymous donors, he said.

Largest enrollment

The Afro-Black American minority group has the largest enrollment, the Chicano-Spanish American group is second. The native American-Indian has the smallest enrollment among UNL minorities.

Smith said Indian students' education often is financed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Some Indian students have expenses paid by the BIA, some are financed by both the BIA and the university. Nebraska law allows Indian students' free tuition at NU.

Smith said the Minority Affairs services also are given to low-income whites with money appropriated by state and federal governments.

Committee recommendation to be given by De

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The remaining members of the committee selected by Varner include public representatives Mrs. Harold Andersen of Omaha, William Colwell of Hay Springs and William Smith of Lincoln.

University employees appointed to the committee include Clinton Hoover, president of the Association for Administrative Development, Lucille Griess, president-elect of the University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association and William Pedersen, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources field staff member of

The ASUN defeated a resolution Wednesday night asking the University Business and Finance Office to take action on billboards placed around campus by the University Bookstore. The vote, 16 opposed, eight in favor and one abstention, came during the ASUN's weekly meeting.

The resolution said the billboards gave the campus a "commercial appearance rather than an educational and academic surrounding."

Senator Scott Cook, who introduced the resolution, said billboards on campus, especially the lighted sign in front of the Union, made the campus look like "the Las Vegas strip."

Senator Frank Thompson, who serves on the senate's bookstore committee, warned that the University bookstore was the only one on campus that the university could control and said it would be unfair

Broken Bow and Custer County extension agent.

Six candidates

Ex officio members of the committee will be Dr. Rena Boyle, dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Edward Dejnozka, dean of teachers college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Swanson said the committee will nominate at least six candidates to succeed Zumbege. Varner has requested the committee to submit its list no later than Dec. 1.

to control the University Bookstore's advertising without controlling the advertising of the other bookstores on campus.

The Senate also heard a blast delivered towards it by John Doisan, a junior living at 705 N. 23rd St. who said that the majority of students are "apathetic to ASUN."

He advised senators to go back and talk to the students of their colleges and get their opinions.

He said ASUN as it is presently structured is almost powerless. He invited senators to help him form a committee to attempt to restructure the senate.

The senate also approved resolutions asking for more university funds from the legislature and for a swift search to replace outgoing Chancellor James Zumbege.

A resolution concerning publication of committee vacancies and interview times was tabled till next meeting.