



NU President D.B. Varner

Daily Nebraskan Photo

Varner: regents control

By Marian Lucas

NU President D.B. Varner settled the controversy over the role of the systems office and its relationship to the three campuses Friday afternoon at the 39th annual meeting of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Varner, who spoke to the largest gathering of trustees in the foundation's history, said the operations of NU were misunderstood. The regents represent "the ultimate base of authority for the university," he said.

"When someone asks the question 'Who runs the university,'" he said, "the answer is abundantly clear—the regents."

He told the 146 trustees that the freedom of action accorded to the chancellors of the separate campuses occasionally has been misinterpreted to mean that the campuses are independent.

Originally the systems office, or central administration, was to be a small, but strong coordinating office to help the NU Board of Regents organize the budget and establish academic programs and other relationships among the three campuses, Varner said.

The regents' thought the purpose of the central administration was to achieve maximum effectiveness with the money available to the board and to provide top educational programs with the available resources, he said.

Improved program

Citing NU's "improved graduate programs," coordination of computer services and a "sorting out" of program responsibilities which involved the transfer of certain colleges to Lincoln or Omaha, Varner said he believed this system has effectively served the university and the state.

But, he said, "it is an equally understandable position of the Board of Regents that coordination, cooperation and, at times, consolidation, must be achieved in the interests of maximum use of resources, and that becomes the administrative responsibility of the system office."

Changes possible

Varner said that though the administrative structure has served the university's purposes well, he suggested it could be changed if circumstances warrant it. Citing the federal government as an example, Varner said "there are external forces which may necessitate a review of some parts of our administrative structure."

Because of external forces such as civil rights laws that require compliance, there may be a need for improving the university's ability to coordinate its data, information, accounting and budgeting systems, he said.

"The systems offices of central administrations are not destined to be popular," said Varner.

"My concern is that we tend to focus our attention so exclusively on the negative that we lose sight of the positive dimensions of the university's status," Varner said.

He said the Legislature and the governor have provided more than \$99 million in capital construction funds.

Support shown

Few states in the nation with Nebraska's population and base of resources, have given such evidence of support for their state university system, Varner said.

Optimistic about NU's future, Varner said the regents are unusually conscientious and are devoted to continual improvement of the university.

Henry Haynie, president of the University of Nebraska Foundation, reported that assets total \$23.5 million, but true assets are greater. True assets, he said, total about \$33 million to \$35 million, but many funds are in a perpetual trust.

Paul Amen, chairman of the foundation's solicitation committee, reported that Brakeley, John Price Jones, Inc., has been hired to study the feasibility of a major gift campaign.

The study, which will launch a \$20 million to \$35 million campaign, will take about three months and will cost the foundation \$300,000.

Reelected to the University of Nebraska Foundation's Trustees Board of Directors were Dr. Norman Carlson, Gene Tallman, E.N. Thompson, all of Lincoln; Marianne Folda, Schuyler; Paul Henson, Kansas City, Mo.; and John D. Mullen, Nebraska City.

Elected as new trustees were Duane Acklie, W. Joyce Ayers, James Crabill, Maurice Frazer, Evelyn Gold, Lewis Harris, Ronald Harris, John Haessler, Harold F. Hoppe, Dorothy Martin, Dr. John McGreer, Irene McGreer, Richard Spangler, Sr., Frank C. Sides, Josephine Stewart, Warren Swanson, and William Wright, all of Lincoln.

Edith Babson, Boston, Mass.; Dean H. Eastman, Seattle, Wash.; Elmer Gustafson, La Grange, Ill.; Clifford Hardin, St. Louis, Mo.; Ernest Hodder, Scottsdale, Ariz.; LaVon P. Linn, Arlington, Vir.; C.W. Matschullat, Shawnee Mission, Kan.; Barney Oldfield, Los Angeles, Calif.

Henry Pascale, Seabright, N.J.; Rob. Latham, N.Y.; Josef Sorkin, Olathe, Kans.; Edmund Steeves, Bloomfield Hills, Minn.; Norris Swan, Hastings; Jane Y. Titus, Holdrege; Byron H. Weeth, Atlantis Lantana, Fla.; and Henry O. Weeth, Seattle, Wash.

Smoke sets off false alarm in Administration Building

Smoke created by a power saw set off a smoke detector alarm at 1:16 p.m. Friday in the Administration Bldg.

"It (the smoke detector) just did what it was supposed to do," Lincoln's "A" Zone District Fire Chief W.L. Malcom said.

Claire Coleman, carpentry foreman, said his workers were sizing fire doors, which dulls the saw blades and causes smoke, when the alarm went off.

Harley Schrader, UNL physical plant director, said that to prevent the smoke detectors from sounding false alarms they may be disconnected or the alarm to the

Fire Dept. may be delayed.

He said he is hesitant about disconnecting the alarms, however, and probably will have the alarms to the Fire Dept. delayed.

Campus smoke and fire detectors are connected to the UNL switchboard operators, he said. When one of the alarm lights flashes, the operators notify the Fire Dept.

Schrader said the operators would be instructed to delay calling the Fire Dept. for about two minutes when an alarm sounds in one of the work areas to give workmen time to call the operator if it was set off accidentally.

Idea meets negative reaction

UNO, NU separation study proposed

By Rex Selne

A suggestion to study separating the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) from the NU System, made by State Sen. John Murphy of South Sioux City, met some negative reactions this week from three fellow senators and UNO Chancellor Ronald Roskens.

Murphy said his suggestion is just one of many that he said should be studied by a special legislative committee which is considering a long-range plan for Nebraska's higher education program. "I'm not advocating splitting-out UNO," Murphy said. "But we should keep it in mind as a very possible situation."

State Senators Frank Lewis of Bellevue and John Savage of Omaha have joined Roskens in disagreeing. Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings declined to endorse the suggestion but said all ideas need to be considered.

Murphy said his idea was prompted by committee discussions and a call for additional suggestions from committee chairman Sen. Jerome Warner, Waverly.

Coordinating board
The committee is studying the establishment of a coordinating or governing board for all state institutions of higher learning, according to Murphy. He said such coordination might prompt UNO to call for greater autonomy.

"I know resigning UNL Chancellor James Zumberge took several shots at the present system," Murphy said. "It seems that the system might have encumbered all three of the chancellors."

"It may be hard for Roskens to sit there and watch Wayne and Kearney (State

Colleges) get direct access to a controlling board," he continued. "But it's very contingent on how the coordinating board evolves."

Murphy said "it's entirely possible" that under a new system the University Medical Center (UNMC) also might want greater autonomy by being separated from the system.

"If all three chancellors are fretting about the system, then it's conceivable to me that anything can happen," he said. "I know it's not all smiles and happiness, although Omaha is happy to have state instead of city funds for their university."

Discussion idea
According to Murphy, the idea is "just something that occurred to me in discussion. I can't honestly put my finger on a specific thing that gave me the idea that they want it."

"But why shouldn't Roskens take his own university and say 'O.K., I'm equal to anyone over there.'" Murphy asked. Roskens said he is not prepared to take his own university.

"It's not a viable consideration," Roskens said. "Let's face it, we came here on the basis of the university system arrangement and we believe strongly in it."

Roskens said he does not see the need for the legislative study, "but the senators are free to explore as they wish."

Bellevue's Sen. Lewis also disagrees with the separation idea.

"I think we put together the system the way we wanted it and we worked hard at doing it," Lewis said. "I'm a lot closer to Omaha and to education than Sen. Murphy and I don't know where he got the

idea."

Lewis is chairman of the Legislature's Education Committee.

He also said he hadn't heard of any legislative movement favoring the split.

"It's really without merit for that committee to study the split," Lewis added. "That committee has got some questions about higher education in the state to study and I don't believe that the split is part of what the committee needs to be studying."

Hastings' Sen. Marvel, Republican gubernatorial candidate last year, disagreed with Lewis.

"I think all ideas should be explored," Marvel said. "But that doesn't mean I endorse a split."

"I think we have fooled around long enough about the coordination of higher education in the state," Marvel continued. "There are all kinds of problems to be solved."

He said he was not in a position to judge the matter, but called for a decision to be made.

"We've got to make a decision if the NU Systems Office is to be given more power," Marvel said. "Or should power be given back to the campuses, which would mean in effect that we don't need a systems office?"

Out of line
Sen. Savage of Omaha termed the suggestion "way out of line."

"I don't think there's any concern over the matter (of UNO's relationship to the system) and I don't think there are any problems," Savage said. "There's a place for both campuses in the system."



Photo by Steve Boerger

State Sen. John Murphy

Savage said UNO has a chancellor, "same as the med school and UNL," and that they "supposedly have that autonomy."

"UNO is a place for the middle-class student whose parents can't afford to send him to Lincoln. They're not a fraternity breed of student," Savage said.

Attended UNL
He said he attended UNL "and if I were prejudiced, it would be in behalf of UNL."

"But as a citizen of Omaha and a representative, I know of the dire need for the education of the young people here."

Savage discounted UNL Chancellor Zumberge's questioning of campus autonomy.

"I don't know if Chancellor Zumberge knew what he was talking about," Savage said.

Murphy said he "was not waving a flag and not making a challenge," but despite criticism, will continue to press for the committee study of the split.