

Proposed data system would aid management

By Marian Lucas

Results of a study by an Information Systems Planning (ISP) task force could develop an administrative information and data system common to all three NU campuses, according to Mel Ray, director of the university's computer network.

This information bank, if the university decides to accept it, could provide data about students, faculty and alumni as well as improvements that could be made to university management, Ray said.

The study is sponsored by NU President D.B. Varner and William Erskine, vice president for administration.

Ray said the idea for the information system was formed three years ago. But he said within the past year, concern for such a computerized system has grown stronger.

Identification phase

Currently, the ISP task force is involved in its identification phase. In this phase, which Ray said should last until Dec. 7, members are determining what administrative goals and problems exist through executive interviews.

The executives, including college deans, Ray said, are helping the task force determine what kind of information will go into the bank by listing their respective functions in perspective.

After the first phase is completed, Varner will decide whether or not to continue the project.

If the university decides that it wants to continue the program, Ray said the

definition and implementation phase would start.

This phase, Ray said, would develop a plan for managing the information systems, defining its use, scheduling the project and gathering resources.

Separate systems

Each campus—UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Medical Center—would receive an administration information system to support local operation, he said. Each also would receive a shared data bank which would permit the NU systems office to report institutional activities if the data bank were accepted, he said.

"This system can't develop itself overnight," Ray said, adding that the implementation of it might take five years. NU's computer system, he said, is at a 1948 level of technology.

"We're trying to find the shortest, most effective means of moving toward a 1975 level," Ray said.

The task force members include Ray, Glenn Andersen, manager of the network systems' analysis group; Jesse Edwards, University of Nebraska Medical Center assistant director for the physicians' assistant program; Ron Gierhan, UNL assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs; James Maynard, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) director of institutional research; Gene Trani, administrative intern for academic affairs; John Newton, UNO dean of arts and sciences; and Glenn Smith, director of business and accounting.

Minority business students recruited

Recruitment and retention of minority students are major concerns of the new College of Business Administration Ethnic Minority Committee, an outgrowth of a UNL minority education workshop last summer.

The workshop, sponsored by the teaching council, identified problem areas for minority students in the colleges of Business Administration and Arts and Sciences.

The eight-member committee will conduct an advising session tonight at 7 p.m. at the Learning Center in the basement of Selleck Quadrangle. The session is open to minority students in CBA.

Barron Harvey, chairperson of the committee, said they will try to enroll as many students together in the same classes as

possible.

The committee also is working on two new courses for CBA consideration. One course outlines what business college is about and the other would deal with management of small minority businesses.

First task

Harvey said the committee's first task was to decide which problems it would consider.

"The committee was in agreement that the biggest problem is keeping minority students in CBA," he said.

Many minority students are ill-advised on what classes to take their first year, he said, so they become discouraged and eventually flunk out of school.

Another problem, Harvey said, is that



Photo by Kevin Higley

The owner of this car is the victim of rhino boots, the devices that Campus Police place on the front wheel of cars on its towing list.

John Duve, parking and traffic coordinator, said that since Campus Police began using the boots almost two weeks ago, they have been "clamping down" on about 15 to 20 violators a day.

Rhino boots, which prevent the car from moving, are put on cars whose owners have not paid ticket fines after 20 days.

Persons who find rhino boots on their wheels can have Campus police remove them after paying a \$5 fine. In the past, student's cars were towed at a \$10 to \$15 cost.

Senators argue adjourning

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Barnett, arguing for adjournment, said "the longer you sit here, the longer and more severely you are going to be criticized

by the people of this state."

He moved and the senators passed 31-16 a suspension of the rule providing that the special session discuss only those bills suggested by the governor. It was determined bills could be introduced and passed, but not discussed.

The Referral Committee met briefly and assigned the governor's bills to the Revenue and Appropriations Committees to be heard publicly Oct. 29, 30 and 31.

William Swanson, NU vice president for governmental relations, said he would wait until copies of the bills were printed and studied before he would comment on their effect on the university.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, commenting on the session, said, "I have my corn picked, but I'm still combining soybeans. The air conditioner on the combine isn't working, so I leave the window open and consequently I've been eating a lot of dirt. I had hoped to avoid that here, but now I'm not so sure."

The senators adjourned until Nov. 3.

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