

Regents decide against Pershing sale

By Theresa Forsman

The NU Board of Regents Friday decided not to sell the vacant Pershing College property in Beatrice.

NU President D.B. Varner told the regents they should fulfill what he called their commitment to Southeast Community College (SCC).

The Pershing College property was given to the NU Foundation in December, when the university had no immediate use for the property and offered it to SCC.

According to law, NU cannot accept real estate valued at more than \$10,000 without legislative approval. The Pershing College property is valued at more than \$2 million.

Liquidation of property

The foundation resolution submitted for regent approval called for liquidation of its interest in the property. The board approved Omaha Regent Kermit Hansen's resolution: to ask the Legislature in January to allow the university to accept the property "for the purpose of transmitting it to the governing board of SCC or other educational entities as directed by the Legislature."

Hansen's resolution states that the foundation be reimbursed for maintenance expenditures of the property.

In other action, Executive Vice-President Steven Sample made minor changes in his October tenure report, "in an effort to make it acceptable to all parties."

Variations in wording

Most of the changes are variations in wording, which do not change the recommendation's main thrust, Sample said.

Changes requested but not made include shortening the six year faculty probationary period before tenure can be granted, Sample said.

Some faculty members wanted to change the "seven years and up-or-out rule," Sample said, now followed when granting tenure. He recommends no change in the current procedure, in which faculty members cannot remain on staff if they have not been tenured after seven years.

Since changes in the report were not made until Thursday, the regents declined to act on it, enabling the university community to reply to the revised report.

Public meeting

The board directed its Academic Affairs Committee to act on the revised report within two weeks. The committee will hold a public meeting for discussion of the new report on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9 a.m. in Regents Hall, 3835 Holdrege.

Other action:

The board revised its September capitol construction request. They moved renovation and repair projects to first priority along with correction of fire safety hazards.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf, Lincoln, and Omaha Regent Robert Prokop said they disapproved of many fire safety projects now being completed on the UNL campus.

Schwartzkopf said he thought many of the projects were wasting taxpayers' money and taking funds away from needed repairs and renovations.

UNL Interim Chancellor Adam Breckenridge agreed with Schwartzkopf that some of the work being done to comply with state fire marshal directions is not beneficial to the taxpayers.

Driver Safety Program

The board reluctantly approved adoption of the Driver Safety Program endorsed by Gov. J. James Exon. According to the program, university employees who drive university vehicles must take a driver's safety course provided by the state at a cost of \$5 for each employee enrolled. The estimated cost in enrollment fees is \$37,000 and employees taking the course will need eight hours off from their work.

Regent Hansen suggested the university offer a \$5 business course in time and money management to state employees.

The board approved a \$3 increase in student fees for University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) students. The new fees, effective next semester, are \$36 for full-time students and \$18 for part-time students.

UNO Student Regent Clint Bellows asked for a general review of student fee uses on the UNO and UNL campuses.

Bellows said he objected to the use of student fees at UNO for improvement of buildings other than the student union. If fees were not being used for building and parking lot improvements, he said, the increase would not be necessary.

Financial challenge

The board heard a report on the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Hospital and Clinics.

Douglas Peters, hospital administrator, told the board that a reduction in patient services would cause "a significant financial challenge" for UNMC.

UNMC is considering ways to generate income, he said, including freezing travel expenditures, eliminating overtime and deferring equipment requests. The hospital still expects to have a \$39,820 deficit by June 30, 1976, the end of the fiscal year, Peters said.

The board also heard a report on the UNO Master of Business Administration Program, a designated area of excellence.

Lets NU 'off the hook'

Exon note chides senators

By Dick Piersol

Gov. J. James Exon, in a letter delivered to the Legislature Friday, made no direct mention of the "fish or cut bait" orders he gave the senators when he called the current special session.

He did, however, charge that by not adopting his proposals, "you have let the University of Nebraska, our largest spender of state tax dollars, and others completely off the hook."

The letter said Exon has been advised by State Tax Commissioner William Peters that the Legislature's actions have mandated a state income tax rate increase from 12 per cent to 15 per cent. Exon said the sales tax might be held at two and one-half per cent, but "we are perilously close to forcing this up to three per cent."

If the sales tax rate goes to three per cent, the income tax rate might be held at 13 or 14 per cent, Exon said.

The senators voted Friday to meet with Peters concerning the impact of their actions when the Legislature convenes today at 2 p.m.

Express obligations

Exon said if the term "express obligations" has any meaning for tax rate setting purposes, the tax rate increases would be higher.

Express obligations have been defined as state financial commitments which extend beyond a given fiscal year's appropriations

considerations. Some senators have said there may be 399 other definitions and others say they have no meaning at all.

At any rate, LB3, now on final reading with LB4, 5 and 6, directs the State Board of Equalization to consider express obligations when setting tax rates.

The board is scheduled to meet today at 10 a.m., not to set tax rates, but to discuss express obligations.

LB3 also requires a two to three per cent cushion in the general fund to be provided by a slight overlevying of taxes. Exon had asked that no cushion be included.

Monthly fund payments

LB4 provides monthly payments of general funds to municipalities, counties and school boards which previously were paid semiannually or quarterly. According to senators, this would help prevent the cash flow deficit projected by the governor.

Exon had proposed that LB4 give State Treasurer Frank Marsh power to issue delaying warrants to political subdivisions, but testimony by county, city and school board officials convinced the Legislature's Appropriations Committee that those subdivisions were also in dangerous cash flow situations.

LB6, as amended, chops \$3.9 million from the governor's recommended budget cuts of \$6.9 million. That action spared NU, state regional mental retardation offices, the Beatrice State Home, state col-



Daily Nebraskan photo

Gov. J. James Exon, in a letter delivered Friday, criticized legislators for exempting some state agencies from tax cuts.

leges, vocational technical schools and other agencies from budget cuts for the remainder of this fiscal year.

The bill also includes a plan for transfer of capital construction funds appropriated but not scheduled for expenditure to the general fund to help alleviate the cash flow

shortage.

These bills and LB5, appropriating for expenses of the special session, are on final reading and probably will be voted upon Tuesday. Exon asked the Legislature to reconsider its actions before proceeding on its present course.

State's federal funds 'low'

Compared with Big 8 school states, Nebraska ranks lowest in federal funds received for research and development, according to Carl Leopold, new NU graduate dean and assistant vice president of research.

"NU is traditionally agriculturally oriented, an area in which few research and development dollars are spent," he said.

This year, agriculture has a total federal research and development budget of \$370 million, Leopold said, while the defense research and development budget is \$10 billion.

Leopold said his job involves increasing federal research and development funds and federal grants for NU faculty research projects.

Federal funds supplied \$16.5 billion to

states for research and development projects in 1973. Nebraska received \$13.4 million. Missouri ranks highest of Big 8 states with \$608 million.

"Let's face it," Leopold said, "Nebraska will never be strong in the kind of activity that draws a large amount of research and development funds."

Another reason Nebraska ranks low, Leopold said, is because NU is the only institution in the state which receives federal funds and other states have more universities and research centers receiving money.

Leopold said he hopes to see federal financing at NU improve within two years.

"A year is an awfully short time in which to see an improvement," he said. "It will have to be a gradual process."

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Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny and cooler. Temperatures in the upper 40s.

Monday night: Fair and cold. Lows in the mid-30s.
 Tuesday: Sunny and warmer. Temperatures ranging from the mid to upper 50s.

