

# Regents appoint legal counsel; support vet school

The NU Board of Regents Saturday appointed John C. Gourlay as full-time NU General Counsel at an annual salary of \$32,500.

The regents decided last fall to establish the attorney post because of what they called large increases in the volume of NU's legal work.

Gourlay, a partner in the Lincoln firm of Mattson, Ricketts, Davies, Steward and Calking, was chosen from more than 20 applicants for the position.

Gourlay will serve as a reference for all legal matters within the university and will be able to consult with current NU legal counsel for assistance with major litigation. The firm of Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather has represented the university for more than thirty years and has provided "outstanding legal counsel for the board," according to NU Pres. D.B. Varner. NU pays \$22,000 yearly for the firm's counsel.

That work includes advising the central administration, reviewing federal contracts and the acquisition and disposition of land and other real property.

UNL graduate

Gourlay received a B.A. degree from UNL and a J.D.

degree from Georgetown University. He is a member of the American and the Nebraska State Bar Associations.

The board also gave support to a proposed five-state regional veterinary college which would include Nebraska.

The \$14 million "nucleus" facility financed by the five states—Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota—and the federal government, would be built on UNL's East Campus. Nebraska's share of the financing would be about 38 per cent of that coming from the five states, according to Howard Ottoson, acting vice-chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ottoson estimated annual operating costs would average \$8,700 per student.

If the proposal is accepted, planning would begin in July. However, regents said they want to consider other alternatives before deciding. NU's current policy contracts with veterinary colleges to accept Nebraska students.

New board chairman

In other action Saturday, the board:

—elected Regent James Moylan of Omaha as new board chairman and Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff as vice-chairman.

—reaffirmed its support for a joint state office building-University of Nebraska at Omaha learning center complex.

Although Gov. J. James Exon wants to keep the cost close to \$13 million, estimates for the complex have been as high as \$18 million, Varner said.

So far \$5 million has been raised privately for the learning center.

—held a 50-minute closed session in which status of the search for a UNL chancellor, real estate matters and candidates for honorary degrees were discussed.

—deferred action on selecting a bank to handle the \$4 million NU endowment fund. Information on bidders' past performances is needed before the board decides, according to William Erskine, executive vice-president for administration.

—voted not to give proposed extraordinary merit salary increases to three NU football coaches. Head Football coach Tom Osborne would have received an additional \$3,082; Assistant Football coach Monte Kiffin would have received \$1,062 and Assistant Football coach William Myles would have received \$370.

## Regent roll call includes woman

"Gentlemen" will no longer be an apt salutation for the NU Board of Regents—at least for 1976. Chris Baker, a 21-year-old nursing student from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, attended her first board meeting Saturday as student regent.

Baker, who is from Trenton, Neb., was elected president of the medical center's Student Senate in December. The first woman student regent, she succeeds Tim Chappell on the board, representing the center's 400 students.

Baker said her first regents meeting was confusing and said it probably is just as well student regents do not have voting power.

"I wouldn't have felt confident voting yesterday because the issues are hard to understand right away," she said.

Baker cited the one-year term of office as one reason student regents should not vote and said that student regents can be just as effective without voting.

Important issues this year on the medical center campus are lack of parking and a proposal to implement student fees, according to Baker.

They are not aware of it yet, she said, but medical center students may have to start paying student fees in July. Baker said a specific amount was not yet decided.

"Student fees are fine if they are going to legitimate student needs," Baker said. She said she wants to make sure all those who receive student fees will be held accountable for them.

Baker plans to graduate in 1978 with a Bachelor of Nursing degree.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Chris Baker, a 21-year-old nursing student from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is the first woman student Regent on the NU board.

## Lewis petition drive accelerates to meet deadline

By Gail Smith

Supporters of a petition calling for a grand jury investigation of the Sept. 24 shooting death of Arvid Sherdell Lewis have launched a last-minute effort to get needed signatures by Tuesday.

Jesse Payne, chairman of the Justice for Lewis Committee, Saturday estimated about 3,200 signatures have been obtained. The signatures of 4,828 Lancaster County registered voters must be filed with the clerk of the district court to call a grand jury.

The petition calls for a grand jury to investigate the shooting deaths of two black Lincoln men. Lewis was killed at 2284 Potter St. by Rodney Loos, a Lancaster County deputy sheriff. Law enforcement officers had gone to the house with a search warrant for drugs. Elijah

Childers was killed Feb. 1 by Lincoln police when officers went to Childers's apartment during investigation of a knifing incident.

Payne said petition circulators will try to obtain signatures wherever people gather, including downtown streets. He said a booth will be located at the Gateway Shopping Center enclosed mall Monday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to student circulators at UNL, Payne said, a petition is available at the Minority Affairs office in Seaton Hall.

He said it will take commitment to get the signatures, but he said he believes the goal can be reached. Although approximately 1,600 signatures still are needed, he said he thinks Lincoln's population is large enough to provide enough signers.

Payne said the petition drive's main problem were a lack of personnel and time lost after the drive was started in mid-October. He said members of the Justice for Lewis Committee waited to actively seek signatures, hoping government officials would call a grand jury, making the completion of the drive unnecessary.

County Atty. Ron Lahners said Oct. 14 that the deputy who killed Lewis fired in self-defense and criminal charges would not be filed against him. On Oct. 15, the City-County Common (the Lancaster County Board, Lincoln City Council and Mayor Helen Boosalis) asked District Court judges to call a grand jury, but on Nov. 3 Judge Samuei Van Pelt refused.

If enough signatures to call a grand jury are not obtained by Tuesday, Payne said, another petition drive may be started in the spring.

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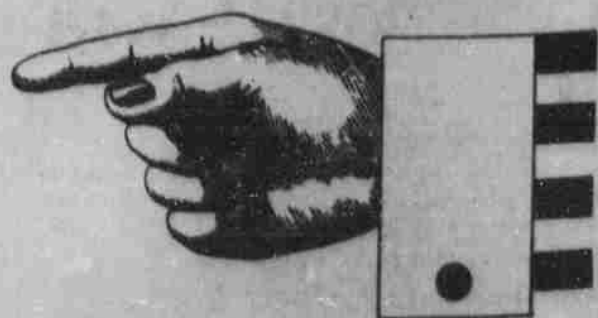
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