

# Summer Nebraskan

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## Colleagues praise Varner's work

The next president of the University of Nebraska should work to keep the lines of communication open, both inside and outside the university, said NU President D.B. Varner, who is leaving the president's post by the end of the year.

"The lifeblood of this university is the confidence of the people in the state," Varner said in an interview this week.

In order to keep the confidence of Nebraskans they must be informed about what is going on here at the university, he added.

The people of Nebraska do support and want a quality university but it is up to us to keep the channels of communication open, Varner said.

Varner said open communications among the 76,000 persons who make up the university community is equally important. This internal communication is not as open as

he would like it to be, Varner said, but added, "The university is on its way now."

Varner, who has been president of NU for almost seven years, announced his resignation Saturday at the NU Board of Regents meeting. He has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of the NU Foundation, effective on or before Jan. 1, 1977.

### Sense of affection

Announcing his resignation, Varner said his deep sense of affection for the state of Nebraska played a part in his decision to remain at the university in the NU Foundation position.

Varner's term as NU president is the second longest term of any university president in the country. "The tenure of the chief executive is necessarily shorter than that of others (university administrators)," Varner said.

He told the board of regents he has given his best contribution and thus, the interests of the university would best be served if he resigned.

Varner, 59, stressed that his resignation was in no way a result of unhappiness or disillusion. "No university president in American has received such solid support from the board (of regents) as I have," he said.

Regents Chairman Robert Moylan said he accepted Varner's resignation with deep regret. "The university has advanced educationally and financially with Varner as president," Moylan said.

Varner became president of the university shortly after the Nebraska Legislature had united the three campuses into a system.

### "System took shape"

"The system took shape under Varner," said Miles Tommeraaen, UNL vice chancellor of business and finance.

The Legislature said we were going to have a system but it did not give any other specifications. "Varner started out with utter chaos and hammered out the university system we have now," Tommeraaen said.

"The university has come a long way in the past six years," Tommeraaen said.

Varner's main contribution to the university and to the state was the strong leadership he provided, said Adam Breckenridge, UNL vice chancellor for academic affairs.

His quality of leadership, Breckenridge said, is reflected in the persons he has chosen for leadership positions in the university.

### Buildings added

Breckenridge said new buildings added to the university campus during Varner's term are evidence of Varner's success in presenting the university's view to the Legislature.

Ken Bader, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said he views Varner's term as a pupil/teacher relationship. "I have tried to emulate his style. He is a gifted speaker and has a great sense of timing," Bader said.

"When I came for an interview here, I had heard Varner was a dynamic and vigorous person. This opinion has not been tarnished in any way," he added.

Flavel Wright, chairman of the Board of directors of the NU Foundation, said he was delighted to learn of Varner's decision to accept a position with the foundation. "His knowledge of the university, his administrative experience, his state and national contacts and his enthusiasm for Nebraska make him a natural for the position," he said.

The NU President's salary for 1976-77 was raised from 44,400 to 47,500 at Saturday's board meeting.

## Resignation could affect chancellor post

By January 1, three of the four top administrative positions at NU will be filled by newly appointed persons.

Roy Young took over duties as UNL chancellor on June 1.

A new university president will be chosen by January 1, and Robert Sparks, chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, will step down in September.

Pete Boughn, assistant to Sparks and secretary of the search committee to select candidates for his successor, said Varner's resignation could affect the selection of the new chancellor.

Chancellors work directly with the university president, he said. I would expect they would want to meet the person they are going to be working with, Boughn said.

Boughn said the search committee would meet its September 1 deadline for submitting chancellor nominees to the NU Board of Regents. October 16 is the date set for submission of candidates for the NU president's post.



NU President D. B. Varner, who is leaving the position to become Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NU Foundation.

Photo courtesy Daily Nebraskan

## Budget cuts will not change despite Cavanaugh request

By Theresa Forsman

NU's operating budget for 1976-77 will not be changed despite Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh's request that it be revised, NU President D.B. Varner said this week.

Cavanaugh told the NU Board of Regents at their meeting Saturday that the university administration is imposing budget cuts in the wrong areas.

In its session earlier this year, the Legislature cut \$500,000 from both the administration and physical plant portions of the budget, as a result of an amendment by Cavanaugh.

The NU Systems Office's administrative costs will be cut by \$54,000. The three campuses will absorb the rest of the cut.

But Cavanaugh said this is not what he had in mind when he sponsored the budget reductions.

### Force university

"The reductions should come from the central administration," Cavanaugh told the board. The budget reduction was intended to force the university to decide what administrative positions really are necessary and serving their function, he added.

There is a duplication of administration in the university, Cavanaugh said, citing vice presidents in the systems office, who, he said, overlap in duties with the campus chancellors.

"The administration has a vested interest in seeing the reductions spread out to the campuses," Cavanaugh said.

He told the board the responsibility to remedy the

budget rest with them.

Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf disagreed that the budget cuts were self-serving. "This (University) organization is not something we just pulled out of a hat," he said.

He suggested the Legislature's operation was less efficient than it could be.

### Services to be cut

Almost \$200,000 of the budget cut will come from administrative services on the UNL campus, said Ken Bader, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs.

Though the final operating budget will not be complete until early this month, Bader said some positions and services will be terminated.

Services will be reduced in the records and registrar's offices, in student advising, in financial aids and in other areas, Bader said.

Some services students and parents have come to expect will be stopped, Bader said. "Though we've tried to make intelligent choices concerning where to cut the budget, some things are not going to get done," he said.

### Employees terminated

Miles Tommeraaen, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, estimated that up to 20 UNL employees could be terminated due to the reduced budget.

Tommeraaen said many positions which became vacant this spring have not been filled in an effort to reduce the number of employees who will be laid off because of the reduction.

## Court revokes 'gag' rule

Journalists are celebrating a victory for the free press while lawyers and judges are glad to finally have guidelines for press coverage of trials.

The U.S. Supreme Court Wednesday unanimously overturned a "gag" order issued by Lincoln County District Court Judge Hugh Stuart last year in the mass murder trial of Ervin Charles Simants.

Simants, of Sutherland, was accused of murdering six members of the Henry Kellie family of Sutherland last Oct. 18.

Additionally, Simants, now 38, was accused of sexually assaulting Kellie's wife and one of the grandchildren.

Initially, Lincoln County Judge Ronald Ruff issued a gag order allowing newsmen to attend Simants' preliminary hearing, but prohibiting them from reporting testimony presented during the hearing.

Ruff's order was appealed to Stuart, and Stuart dissolved it, replacing it with one of his own.

### Order wide-ranging

Stuart's order was wide-ranging. It prohibited newsmen from reporting on the aspects of the case they were being ordered not to report. Some of Stuart's order itself was not reportable.

Marshall Pritchard, KLMS News Director and President of Associated Press Broadcasters of Nebraska, described the overruling as a "hell of a birthday present for us."

Pritchard said that today's decision resulted in the fact that "both amendments can be met for a fair trial."

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