

Faculty, administration squabbles not career killer

By Theresa Forsman

Faculty leaders at UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) said Saturday they do not believe that disagree-

ments between faculty members and the university administration will ruin the career of NU's next president. NU Board of Regents Chairman Robert

Simmons last month wrote a much-publicized letter to state senators from his regent's district. In the letter he charged that during the December executive session selection of an interim president, two regents thought quarrels with the faculty would kill the career of NU's next president.

Simmons, of Scottsbluff, said these were not his feelings. He declined to name the regents who expressed the opinion. Copies of the letter were obtained last week by the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha World-Herald.

Not easy job

"I don't know where they got that idea," said Henry Baumgarten, UNL Faculty Senate president. "I don't think a (university) president's job is easy, but I don't think it would be the end of anybody's career. It's very difficult to keep everybody happy, but most college presidents seem to survive."

Justin Stolen, UNO Faculty Senate president, said he did not see any basis for the opinion that arguments with the faculty will ruin the next NU president's career.

Letter's effect

Stolen, also a member of the presidential search committee, said he did not know what effect Simmons' discussion of the interim president selection would have on the committee's progress.

The letter reportedly said Roskens was chosen interim president over Steven Sample, NU Vice President for Academic Affairs, because Roskens was more expendable and thus more suitable for the career-ending job.

Such discussion could affect the decision of possible candidates for the NU presidency, Baumgarten said.

"Nobody's going to take a job if he thinks it means ending his career, and nobody's going to want to get involved in arguments," he said.

Baumgarten said he hoped discussion of the contents of the letter would "die down quickly". The university is going to have a difficult time as it is, trying to get the NU budget request approved by the Nebraska Legislature during what looks like a tight budget year for the state, he said.

Extraneous discussions

"We need to be concentrating on things faculty and administrators are supposed to be doing and not getting involved in these extraneous discussions," Baumgarten said.

Roskens said the publicity about his selection as interim president has not made his job more difficult. He said the statements will not affect his future decision whether to accept the permanent presidency if it is offered him.

No feedback

Simmons said he has received no feedback from the university community about the contents of his letter.

"No one has called me except reporters," he said. Simmons said he did not understand why something he wrote a month ago should get attention now.

Simmons said he writes letters to senators after each regents meeting because reporters in outstate news media do not always provide the full story of what happens at the meetings.

He said he "hadn't thought about it," when asked if he would consider writing the letter for the public instead of just for some state senators.

Omaha regents Kermit Hansen and James Moylan said they would not discuss the contents of Simmons' letter because they had not read it. Other regents were not contacted.

Moylan said he did not think publicity about the selection of the interim president



would hinder the search committee's work.

Several regents, search committee members and university administrators have said premature discussion in the news media of possible presidential candidates was part of the reason a president was not selected by the original Jan. 1 deadline.

In the December letter, Simmons also reportedly criticized Roskens for violating a university directive when he was UNO chancellor by lobbying in last year's legislature. Simmons wrote that Roskens lobbied for the UNO Health, Physical Education and Recreation Bldg. and the Downtown Education Center, to be built in downtown Omaha.

In letters sent to the state senators during the last four months, Simmons also reportedly criticized "outside interests" of NU administrators. Several administrators including UNL Chancellor Roy Young, serve on the board of directors of some banks.

Simmons told the *Daily Nebraskan* last week that businesses in Lincoln and Omaha, not the university, want to keep the campuses (UNO and UNL) at odds with each other.

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Man arrested, charged in alleged assault attempt

University Police arrested a man who allegedly attempted to assault a freshman woman early Friday morning in the basement of Schramm Residence Hall.

Anthony Silva, 19, was charged with "assault with intent to commit great bodily harm" in Lancaster County court at 2 p.m. Friday. Judge Robert Camp set bond at \$1,000, deputy county attorney Rod Rehm said.

Rehm said possible sentencing ranges from one to 20 years imprisonment.

University Police Officer Joe Wehner said a description from the victim, Lessie Rushall, and three witnesses who saw the alleged assailant leave Schramm Hall led to the arrest Friday at 21st and Holdrege streets.

Rushall said she noticed a man standing

by a stairwell door on her residence hall floor while she was waiting for the elevator.

Then she went to the basement to get her laundry and she said the man came up behind her and placed a knife at her throat.

She said she worked her way to the stairwell door and fell against it, freeing herself from his grip.

Stumbling over her long robe and nightgown, she ran up the stairs to the lobby where she told the security guard what happened, Rushall said.

She said the guard went down one stairwell as the man stepped into the lobby from the other stairwell.

She screamed and two men sitting in the Schramm lobby started to chase the man, but soon returned to the lobby when they lost him.



Photo by Ted Kirk

This may have been all some UNL swimmers saw Saturday of the University of Missouri swim team as the Huskers lost their second dual meet of the season, 66-46. For more, see page 10.

Governors approve plans to build veterinary school

Plans to build a regional veterinary school in Lincoln were approved Friday by the governors of Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, the five members of the Old West Regional Commission supporting the project.

"We're very pleased. That's what we hoped the governors would decide," said T. E. Hartung dean of the UNL College of Agriculture.

At the meeting in Washington D.C., Friday, the five governors voted to ask their legislatures to support the veterinary school. Hartung said there would be no action taken in the Nebraska Legislature this year concerning the vet school, but there "most certainly" would be in 1978.

An advisory committee, comprising representatives from each of the five states, was appointed to make specific plans for the school, according to the Old West Regional Commission office in Washington. The cost of their six-month study was set at \$92,000.

Plans to build a veterinary school at Colorado State University (CSU) are materializing, and although Montana and Wyoming still are interested in joining the CSU

project, Hartung said the two states definitely were included in the Old West project. He said the two states might use both schools to meet their needs.

Although no current UNL students are directly involved with the Old West project, Hartung said many were interested in getting adequate placement for all veterinary students.

monday

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