

Simmons criticized for UNO building comments

Remarks by Robert Simmons, chairman of the NU Board of Regents, "must not be allowed to stand unchallenged", the president of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Parent's Association said Thursday.

In letters to state senators from his regents' district, Simmons questioned the size of the proposed UNO Health, Physical Education and Recreation Bldg. Simmons is from Scottsbluff.

Earl Leinart, of the association, said, "It is regrettable

that the chairman of the board should find it expedient to undercut the board's position with state government.

Simmons' much-publicized letters, disclosed recently, also commented on the selection of Ronald Roskens as interim NU president and on the influence of local businesses on NU administrators.

UNO parents should not interpret "Simmons' unfortunate and misleading remarks as reflecting the position of the Board of Regents on this project," Leinart said.

"It should be reasonable," he said, "to hope in the future Regent Chairman Simmons would be disposed to support the actions of the entire Board of Regents even when he is in the minority of one on a vote."

"He (Simmons) should feel an obligation to support

and encourage favorable support for the budget request approved by the very Board of which he was, and is, a member," Leinart said.

He said the parent's association agrees with Simmons that the building should not cost more than \$6 million.

However, he said, the cost would not have risen to \$7.4 million except for vetoes by Gov. J. James Exon and inflation.

Exon has vetoed money for the building twice. It has been high on the regent's capital construction priority list since 1973 when money was appropriated for planning. It currently is second on the priority list behind remodeling of campus buildings.

Hyde denounces natural gas lights

Nebraska senators have received another letter from Harlow Hyde, a State Department of Public Institutions budget analyst.

Unlike Hyde's last letter to the Nebraska Legislature, this one does not question NU's budget requests, but it does seek to prompt legislative action.

Hyde suggests senators "consider adopting legislation which would prohibit the use of decorative natural gas lights."

Claiming natural gas is a dwindling fuel, he said his suggestion would benefit Nebraskans and signal the state's sincerity "about conservation of both energy and our natural resources."

Hyde quotes a Minnesota statute prohibiting decorative gas lamps and urges that Nebraska follow Minnesota's example.

He said such legislation would curb the waste of natural gas.

"Little natural gas is available on the international market at any price," Hyde said. He added that the recent closing of many eastern industries because of a natural gas shortage demonstrates that the United States economy depends on the fuel.

He said a mobile home park near his home has more than 100 natural gas lights, each of which burns two elements 24 hours a day.

"A couple of dozen carbon arc lights would provide more light than these and of course would only be utilized during the night," He wrote.

Speaker search was nip 'n' tuck

The changing of the guard in Washington left Nebraska's Model United Nations (NMUN) without a speaker for awhile.

Shari Patrick, secretary general of NMUN, said she had asked Richard Gardner, law professor at Columbia University, to be keynote speaker for this year's NMUN.

"He kept putting us off, saying he couldn't be sure he'd be available," Patrick said.

She said she guessed he was waiting for an appointment to a cabinet post in the Carter administration. Gardner recently was named U.S. ambassador to Italy.

She said that after the November election she contacted several persons in Ford's administration to see if they would be available to speak at NMUN. None of them wanted to commit themselves until after the inauguration, she said.

Plans to have James Howe as keynote speaker were not

completed until mid-January, Patrick said. Howe is senior fellow of the Overseas Development Council in Washington D.C. and a UNL alumnus. Last year's keynote speaker, James Schlesinger, agreed in October 1975 to speak at the February NMUN.

Sara Boatman, program manager for the Nebraska Union, said the Talks and Topics committee has not discussed asking anyone from the Ford administration to speak at UNL. She said the Talks and Topics budget for this year, about \$16,000, already is committed.

Next year's speakers will not be decided until late this spring, she said.

Apparently there is little demand elsewhere at UNL for the now-unemployed members of the Ford administration. Several college deans and department chairman contacted said there were no plans, at least for now, to get persons from the Ford administration to lecture at UNL.

FAB sets deadline for new budgets

The Fees Allocations Board voted Thursday night to take away student fees money from UNL organizations that haven't submitted a revised budget or audit by Feb. 8.

Among the organizations that haven't submitted budgets are the Fencing Club, Soccer Club, Rifle Club, Cornhusker Water Polo Club, Tractor Club, Engineering Executive Board, Student Social Work Club and the National Student Speech and Hearing Club, according to Sherry Cole, chairman.

FAB granted time extensions for submitting budgets to the Daily Nebraskan, Cultural Center and Afro Ameri-

can Collegiate Society upon their requests.

Dave Ware, chairman of the Major Fee User Committee of FAB submitted a report on the Nebraska Union budget for 1976-77.

He recommended in his report that the subsidy for the Nebraska Unions 1977-78 budget remain at essentially the same level.

Ware said his committee recommended that "some economics be practiced in the advertising budget and operations budget of the Union."

Ware said the Get it Together at the Union advertising campaign was of major concern in the advertising budget.

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