

State to feel rippling effect of excellence money

By Theresa Forsman

A little money goes a long way toward excellence. This was the consensus of faculty members who gave progress reports Thursday night on three of the six areas of excellence. The areas were given this designation along with extra money for program improvement in 1974.

With close to \$1 million in excellence money over the past three years the departments have increased staff and faculty members, bought equipment, added to curriculums and improved existing programs.

These additions in the Animal Science Dept. have laid the groundwork for excellence in the future, Department Chairman Irvin Omtvedt told the audience of approximately 50. State legislators, UNL and NU administrators, students, visiting faculty members, and NU regents attended the 7 p.m. dinner meeting at the Nebraska Cen-

ter for Continuing Education.

The Animal Science Dept. concentrated its appropriation in its swine program.

Benefits to the program include an electronic device for measuring the thickness of the back fat on hogs, Omtvedt said. Other equipment, post-doctoral fellowships, visiting professorships and additional operations were supported with the department's \$140,000 in excellence money since 1974, Omtvedt said.

Some of the changes in research and in the classroom can better be evaluated five years down the road rather than today, said Robert Bray, director of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The state will feel the "rippling effect" of the money spent on swine teaching, research and extension, Bray

said, because the state's swine industry is dependent on the knowledge obtained in UNL's research laboratories.

Bray is chairman of the committee which has evaluated the department's progress in achieving its goals toward excellence. Visitation teams, named for each area, included regents, administrators, outside faculty members, students and state legislators.

Nebraska is the sixth largest hog-producing state in the nation.

G. G. Meisels, chairman of the Department of Chemistry, explained how the state would benefit from money spent in this area.

The department has brought over one-half million dollars in research grants to the state. In 1973, before the excellence money was allocated, the department received \$300,000 in research money from outside the state. Now, outside research money has reached almost \$1 million. Most of this money stays in Nebraska, Meisels said.

"We more than pay for the excellence program ourselves," he said.

Unprecedented enrollment increases forced the School of Journalism to revise its plans for the excellence money said Neale Copple, director of the school. He added that despite a 44 per cent enrollment increase, the school continues to place all of its job-seeking graduates, Copple said.

Updates on the School of Life Sciences, Non-Traditional Education and Crop Physiology areas will be presented Feb. 24.

daily nebraskan

friday, february 4, 1977 vol. 100 no. 70 lincoln, nebraska

Two owl statues have flown coop

Two copper owls, sitting on the roof. One disappeared, and then there was one.

Two three-foot copper owls have perched on the roof of Architecture Hall since its construction in the 1800s, until Architecture Hall administrators noticed one was missing two weeks ago, according to John Benson, associate dean of the College of Architecture.

But no one knows when, how or why one owl is missing, or how much it is worth.

The second owl was removed by the university Thursday afternoon so no one would steal it, said Jerry Delhay, UNL maintenance manager.

The only people who know the history of the owls have died or moved away, Delhay said. However, he said, a physical plant employe told Delhay the owl was missing when he came to UNL 10 years ago.

Linus Smith, a retired architecture professor, said "old people who come back to visit the campus admire that building (architecture hall) more than the new" buildings.

Smith said Architecture Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus.

It is constructed of "material then called St. Louis pressed brick," Smith said, with copper covering for protection.

The copper owls were cleaned and painted once, he said, "which was a great sin." Smith said when copper oxidizes and turns green, the owls are more attractive.

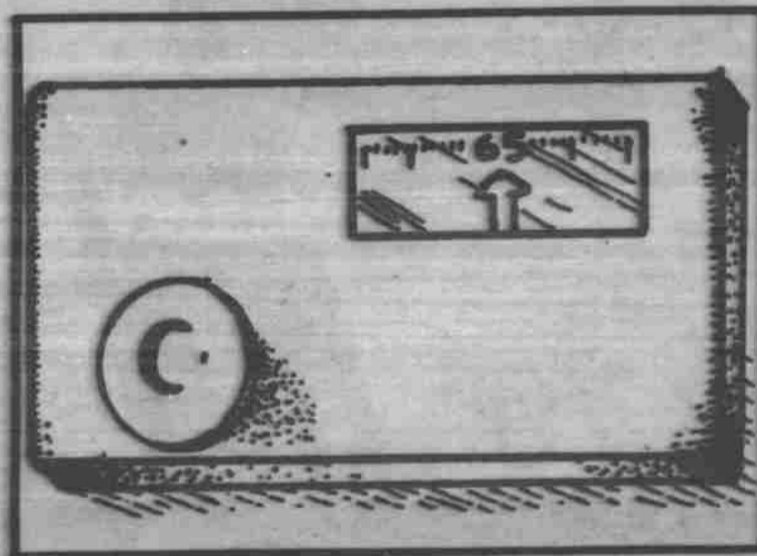
"We're going to make a fiberglass mold and make two more owls," he said. The original owl will be preserved in the university archives or a historical display in Architecture Hall, Delhay said.

The original owl is not solid copper, he said, noting it has bullet holes through it.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Whoooooo put me in this store room? This owl was pried from his perch on the roof of Architecture Hall Thursday and moved to the maintenance dept. in the West Stadium. His future is unknown but a younger owl will probably take his former nesting place.



Conservation ideas

Several simple practices can be followed by students to help conserve energy, said Frank Grant, coordinator of customer information for the Lincoln Electric System.

Consolidating cleaning chores, such as doing laundry only with a full load and avoiding unnecessary dishwasher runs, would save electricity, Grant said.

Insulating windows with sheets of clear plastic, opening curtains on sunny days to let solar heat warm the room, keeping radiators and heat registers unobstructed and "not using the thermostat like a radio or TV dial," also will curtail electrical usage, Grant said.

He added that switching lights off and on every five or ten minutes does not conserve electricity, but he urged students to turn off unnecessary lights.

The governor's proposals "are not new to us," Grant said. He said LES has been working on conservation methods since the 1973 oil price hikes.

UNL thermostats already hovering near Exxon's requested temperatures

By Mary Jo Fitzl

A 60-day state energy emergency may lower most Nebraska thermostats to 65 degrees, but will not change the climate at UNL.

In a special address to the Nebraska Legislature Wednesday Gov. J. James Exon asked Nebraskans to comply with the standards of his six-point energy emergency plan. Thermostats should be set at 65 degrees during the day, and to 55 at night, Exon said.

Exon also asked that businesses, the government and schools turn their thermostats to 45 or less on weekends.

In a memorandum from interim NU President Ronald Roskens to UNL Chancellor Roy Young, Roskens voiced an "enthusiastic support of the governor's emergency plan."

"Energy conservation has been in effect throughout the NU campuses for several years," Roskens said in the memorandum. In view of "an even more critical energy dilemma facing the nation, Roskens said he "expects the principal points of the governor's proposal to be applied throughout the university."

Roskens said room temperature levels in UNL buildings should be reviewed to comply with the recommended 65 to 68 degree daytime readings. Night and weekend thermostat levels should be maintained at 55 degrees, he said.

Thermostat readings in UNL buildings have hovered around the 65 degree mark for several years, Miles Tommeraaen, vice chancellor of business and finance said. He explained UNL has been working on energy conservation methods since 1973, when oil prices began to skyrocket.

"We turned down the whole system as far as we could," Tommeraaen said. The only reply UNL can have to Exon's request for emergency energy action is "we've already done it," he said.

Tommeraaen explained it would be impossible to lower weekend temperatures in many campus buildings to the recommended 45 degree level.

UNL buildings are heated by steam, and the only way to lower weekend temperatures in many of the more than 100 campus buildings would be to individually adjust each thermostat, Tommeraaen said.

Roskens said thermostats will be lowered to 55 at night and on weekends wherever possible. "It's probably being done in some cases," he said, citing his own office as an example.

Lincoln businesses are not taking any more energy precautions than are in use now, Duane Vicary, executive vice-president of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce said. Vicary added the chamber "will cooperate with the governor's request."

An energy resolution, introduced to the legislature Monday by Omaha Sen. Patrick Venditte, urged retail businesses to close on Sundays. His resolution failed to win approval.

friday

News: Faculty salaries remain below average of comparable universities p. 3
Entertainment: Electric Light Orchestra live at Pershing Saturday night p. 7
Sports: The Cornhuskers go for four in a row Saturday against Iowa State p. 10