

# Selection committee says secrecy is paramount

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Maintaining secrecy is "paramount" to selecting an administrative candidate, according to the NU Presidential Search Committee chairman.

Paul Schorr III explained that publishing presidential candidates' names was detrimental to both the candidate and UNL.

Press leaks last October revealed the six candidates names on the committee's first list of presidential nominations. When the NU Board of Regents was unable to

decide on a permanent replacement for outgoing NU president D.B. Varner by Jan. 1, the committee began its task a second time, according to Schorr.

A second list of six candidates was presented to the regents in late March, resulting in last Saturday's appointment of Ronald Roskens as NU president.

Roskens agreed with the regents' and search committee members' statements that search committee work should be conducted entirely in private.

Roskens was informed he was being

considered as permanent NU president two days prior to his appointment, according to Simmons, but knowledge of his consideration was not discovered by the press.

Roskens said he will encourage secrecy in the search committee for a new UNO chancellor. Tuesday afternoon Roskens selected the 15-member committee to replace interim UNO chancellor Herbert Garfinkel.

Justin Stolen, a member of the presidential search committee and now appointed to the UNO chancellor search

committee, said he feels his prior experience will help him in his new position.

"The best thing to do is to be as close-mouthed as possible," said Stolen, UNO Faculty Senate president.

Lincoln regent Ed Schwartzkopf said out of fairness to the other candidates under consideration, secrecy is absolutely necessary when selecting a new administrator.

Publication of candidates can influence future job possibilities, Schwartzkopf said. Scottsbluff regent Robert Simmons echoed Schwartzkopf's feelings.

He said the regents have reason to believe the six candidates whose names were leaked received promotions or raises to keep them in their current jobs when their names were published last October.

"If there was a leak this time, it didn't get published," Simmons said, adding he did not know how information leaked out.

Simmons said he has drafted an outline for future search committees to follow, "to see that this long procedure doesn't take so long again."

"It's a matter of procedure, not substance," Simmons said. He explained his plan would authorize the NU president to begin advertising immediately when an administrative office vacates, while the regents would be responsible for appointing a search committee.

Simmons said he hopes to present his plan at the May 21 Regents meeting and thinks it will not receive much opposition.

# Hours of hard work end in a president

What goes into the making of a president?

Nearly nine months of secrecy hindered by press leaks, pouring over at least 180 candidate possibilities and uncountable hours of work, according to members of the NU Presidential Search Committee.

The search committee concluded their work in late March when they submitted their second list of six presidential candidates to the NU Board of Regents, according to committee member Diane Korinek.

Saturday the regents appointed Ronald Roskens NU president. Roskens had previously served as interim NU president since Jan. 1.

The committee was appointed by Omaha Regent James Moylan when former NU President D.B. Varner announced his resignation June 26, 1976. When the regents were unable to produce a permanent replacement by the end of

Varner's term, the search committee began their work anew, committee member Paul Schorr said.

"We moved along relatively rapidly," Schorr said, considering his committee actually did their job twice.

Schorr estimated the committee reviewed the names of at least 180 candidates through both of their searches.

Names of prospective candidates were obtained from a variety of sources. Advertisements in the Chronicle of Higher Education and nominations from alumni, faculty and students produced the majority of candidate possibilities, according to Schorr.

Information on each of the nominees is compiled into a booklet and presented to the search committee, Korinek said. The committee reviews the booklet, telephoning other universities for additional information, reading autobiographies and

giving comments on the research they have done, Korinek said.

"We never talked to a candidate," she said. "It was always to people who knew about them."

The committee narrows the list to six candidates, and forwards that list to the regents for their consideration, Korinek said.

Schorr praised the efforts of the committee, adding he found it hard to believe any of the 15 members would leak candidate information to the press.

"We got the very best president we could have found," Schorr said. Nebraska is terribly fortunate to have people of the caliber of Roskens, he said, adding Roskens surpassed the qualifications of the other five candidates.

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