

Expansion proposal tabled pending further review

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Memorial Stadium expansion is up in the air—but not in the concrete form of 8,000 extra seats expansion supporters had hoped to see after Friday's NU Board of Regents meeting.

A regent sub-committee report recommending that the 8,000 additional seats be built was scheduled for regent vote at their monthly meeting. However, the issue was tabled at the suggestion of Omaha regent Robert Koefoot. Koefoot said the regent's business affairs sub-committee should review the proposal before reintroducing it to the board.

Koefoot's proposal passed 7-2, with Omaha regent James Moylan and Wilbur regent Robert Prokop dissenting.

Student protest to the proposed expansion may have provided the defensive line that blocked regent vote on the 8,000 seat addition.

Don Wesely, a member of the ASUN-appointed student stadium expansion committee, presented the regents with

petitions signed by more than 2,100 students objecting stadium expansion.

Students oppose stadium expansion for seven reasons, according to Wesely. Among the complaints he listed were the aesthetic detriment an addition would cause to the campus, unpredictable future attendance at games, the increased ticket price an expansion may entail, and the possibility of an Athletic Dept. debt if the expanded stadium would not sell out.

The ASUN committee advocated "reversible alternatives" to expansion, Wesely said. This could include televising the games through closed-circuit television at the Sports Complex or broadcasting the game on Nebraska television stations.

Regent Prokop presented a study he made which he said illustrates the need for expansion. Prokop surveyed 11 college football stadiums, including Nebraska's, for his study. The report compares stadium capacity, attendance, ticket prices, parking conditions and stadium additions, as well as gross gate income for Big 8

schools.

Besides reviewing Prokop's report, the regents also questioned Jules Burbach, chairman of the regent sub-committee to study expansion.

Burbach, a former state senator, told the board he objected to stadium expansion because the regents should consider

other, less drastic alternatives, including televising the games in the Sports Complex, he said.

Omaha regent Kermit Hansen, chairman of the regent business affairs sub-committee, said the expansion issue will be brought up at his committee's meeting next month.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Omaha Regent Robert Prokop presents his stadium study report to the Board of Regents. Prokop said his study indicates the need for stadium expansion.

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Railroad crossing repairs will begin

The railroad crossing at 19th and Vine streets is finally going to be repaired beginning today, according to J.B. Kidder, roadmaster of the Rock Island railroad lines.

"We have been attempting to repair it for over a year, but we have had too many problems. We anticipate that it will be finished in less than a month," he said.

Although Vine St. will be closed during the week for the repair, the crossing will be open weekends for football games, he said.

The project is a joint venture shared by the city and the railroad, said Darrell Derby, maintenance coordinator for the city streets dept.

The railroad agreed to fix the crossing after the city filed a complaint, alleging rough crossings, with the Nebraska Public Service Commission about a month ago, said Charles Humble, city attorney.

It is one of 15 crossings the mayor has designated in the city requiring repair. About a year ago, each railroad company was sent a letter, asking them to repair specified crossings, but when they did not meet the request, complaints were filed.

Brown bag workshop to stimulate awareness

A brown bag workshop to help freshman integrate into UNL's system will start today at 11:30 a.m.

The lunches will be part of the freshmen week observance on campus. They are designed to give the freshmen a chance to learn about the workings of UNL.

Sponsored by the Office of Students Affairs, the program is an "attempt to help freshman become aware of facilities available to them on the UNL campus," Mary Kramer, program coordinator said.

There will be daily workshops throughout the week in either the Nebraska Union South Conference Room or the Neihardt Hall Sun Room.

Today's workshop will be given by Deb Knight of the office of financial affairs, dealing with "Financial Management and Financial Aid," and meets in the Union South Conference Room.

Tony Warner of the East Campus Board also will present "Time Management" in the Neihardt Sun Room. Each workshop will be repeated at 12:30 p.m.

Other speakers during the week will be Suzanne Brown, Janet Krause, Carmin Grant, Don Sutton, Loise Perdome, John Painter and Jack Guthrie.

Construction budget given okay

The University of Nebraska (NU) will be asking taxpayers for about \$23.3 million during the next two years to finance building improvements and maintenance on the three NU campuses.

The NU Board of Regents approved a \$23.3 million 1978-80 capital construction budget request at their monthly meeting Friday in Regents Hall.

The two-hour meeting was attended by about 60 university administrators, students, faculty and citizens. Red-robed members of Innocents Society circulated slowly throughout the conference room, silently surveying the board's budget discussion from behind their improvised disguises.

The 1978-80 budget includes requests for one new construction project, with the bulk of the budget itemized for renovations, building planning and utilities.

Parking structure

The only new project is a proposed parking structure at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). There is \$3.7 million budgeted for the project.

Renovation and planning projects included in the two-year request are:

—\$2,430,000 for renovation of the Agricultural Engineering building at UNL,

—\$2,054,000 to convert the former Eugene C. Eppley library at the University of Nebraska-Omaha to a conference center,

—\$2,538,000 to remodel the former College of Nursing at UNMC,

—\$2,080,000 to remodel UNL's Bessey Hall for use by the Anthropology Dept.

—\$190,000 for a NU physical planning data center,

—\$244,000 for planning a corridor to Children's Hospital at UNMC, and

—\$2,032,000 for land acquisition for the NU system, including \$472,000 for UNMC acquisition of the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion.

Omaha regent Kermit Hansen proposed about \$360,000 in amendments to the budget request. The added money would be used for Architecture Hall renovation and expansion, planning and design for Temple drama theatre and funding planning designs for the three campuses and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hansen told the board.

In other action, NU business affairs policy was clarified, a proposal to merge NU and state employee insurance policies was suggested, and the regents approved NU's Role and Mission statement.

Clarified policy

NU President Ronald Roskens clarified university business affairs policy, recommending that business affairs be conducted as normal.

Although a state Supreme Court ruling last July may alter some statutes and directives of NU's business policy, Roskens advised that NU follow normal procedures until policy recommendations could be reviewed by himself and the regents.

"Until such time," he told the board in a prepared report, "it is extremely important to the orderly operations of the university that there be policy continuity."

NU could save as much as \$756,000 by merging their employee insurance policy with that of state employees according to Roger Schulz of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees. He said most of the savings could come in the area of c-line or clerical, employees.

The Role and Missions statement, with revisions added by the regent's Academic Affairs sub-committee, was approved by the regents. The statement now will be forwarded to the Nebraska Legislature.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Oh, no!

Judging from head coach Tom Osborne's reaction; the Huskers have just fumbled again. For more on the game, see page 10.

inside monday

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