Regents schedule fee hearing, ok surplus transfer

By Mary Jo Pitzl

The NU Board of Regents Friday agreed to hear ASUN's proposal to take over control of student fees, approved transfer of student fee surplus money to reduce the university's bond debt, and disclaimed rumors that Nebraska might join the Big 10 football conference.

The board defeated a proposal that would have allowed senior citizens to enroll in university courses tuition-free. The regents scheduled ASUN's proposal for take over

Photo by Mike Dahlheim

of the Fees Allocation Board for their December 10 meeting.

UNL student regent and ASUN president Greg Johnson said a public hearing on the issue is necessary before the

The regents authorized that up to \$2.5 million from student fee surplus funds could be spent to reduce UNL's \$21,365,000 bond debt. UNL has until the year 2001 to pay off the bonds, originally purchased to build the Nebraska Unions, the University Health Center and residence

Questions about Nebraska joining with Big 10 football conference surfaced at the meeting.

Phone calls

Regent Kermit Hansen said he had received several telephone calls about this, and wanted to know if any such consideration is being made.

UNL Chancellor Roy Young said he is not aware of any formal regotiations to have Nebraska join the Big 10 Prokop said he had heard talk from someone in Chicago that Nebraska might be considered to replace Northwestern University because of NU's football

program and stadium. On a 5-2 vote, the regents rejected a proposal that would have provided tuition-free, non-credit courses at

the University of Nebraska at Omaha for persons over 60. The defeated proposal would have been conducted on an experimental basis at UNO before being extended to UNL, according to UNO Chancellor Del Weber. He said the program had wide UNO campus support.

Minden regent Robert Raun said he favored the proposal, but on a more experimental basis than Weber's presentation. He cited parking and lab fee as examples of some problems that could arise from offering the tuitionfree courses, and said the proposal needed more study.

Two supporters

Lincoln regent Ed Schwartzkopf and Schuyler regent Kermit Hansen were the only regents voting in support of the program. Omaha Regent Kermit Wagner was not present at the meeting.

Raun, chairman of the academic affairs committee which reviewed the proposal before it came before the entire board, said "to advance this again would be a futile effort." He said it will not be discussed further unless another regent proposes it.

UNO Faculty Senate president Mary Williamson attended the meeting to voice approval of the proposal, but was not allowed to testify.

She pointed out that senior citizens receive free hunting and fishing licenses in Nebraska, but free university courses seem to be unacceptable.

"An increasing number of colleges and universities are doing it (giving tuition-free courses)," Williamson said. Creighton University in Omaha is among the 441 schools

currently providing this service for the elderly, she said. December recommendation

In other action, the regents agreed to hear a recommendation by Wilber regent Robert Prokop in December that would refuse to accept federal capitation grants for the NU Medical Center. Although the grant money is a "pretty significant amount," it influences medical center enrollment, Prokop said.

"Under these circumstances (where the school is allowed a certain amount of federal money per student) what they're trying to tell all universities is that you can't get federal money unless you take a certain amount of students from certain groups," Prokop said. "They're trying to dictate how many you take and when you take them."

The board received a report on the university's tenure density from Steven Sample, executive vice president for academic affairs.

The report indicated that university-wide tenure density has declined over the past two years. At UNL, tenure density for 1977-78 increased slightly over the previous year.

Sample explained that tenure density represents the amount of tenured and tenure-eligible faculty at the university, in comparison to total faculty members.





