

Proposals satisfy NU, displease state colleges

By Rod Murphy

Basically NU is satisfied with the role and mission definitions approved by the Legislature's Post Secondary Education Advisory Committee. The state colleges, however, are less pleased with the proposal.

The role and mission statements are proposals which would limit government spending in education by ending duplication in curriculum and programs at the various state-supported post secondary schools.

The legislative committee, co-chaired by Sens. Jerome Warner of Waverly and Frank Lewis of Bellevue, is having several public hearings across the state to determine public opinion on the proposal.

Lewis said he expected continued opposition to the statement from lobbyists for the three branches of education, each hoping to "protect their turf."

The three branches involved, the NU system, the state colleges and the technical community colleges all stand to lose some programs or be prevented from instituting new ones if the plan is passed by the Legislature.

According to the plan, NU will be responsible for providing baccalaureate level education, graduate research programs and continuing education. Certain two-year associate degree programs would be curtailed, according to Lewis.

Roskens satisfied

NU President Ronald Roskens said he is generally "quite satisfied" with the plan. However, he said he has some "minor revisions" he wants to present to the board.

UNL would be permitted to offer the associate degree at the Curtis program center. The medical program would be allowed to offer less than four-year programs in nursing, radiologic technology and nuclear medicine.

All other programs of less than four years would be ended and no new programs allowed to begin, according to the plan.

Regent Robert Raun of Minden will present revisions to the board allowing NU to continue two-year programs not specified by the proposal.

While NU generally is satisfied with the plan, officials at the state colleges are more concerned.

State colleges

The state colleges would provide baccalaureate education and master's degree programs in education and the specialist degree in educational administration on the campuses where the programs now are in effect.

Programs of less than four years would have to be coordinated with the university, according to the plan.

Marvin Knittel, vice president of academic affairs at Kearney State College, said the program will have a definite impact on Kearney if it passes the Legislature in its present form.

Two current programs, the master's of business administration and the nursing program, might be in jeopardy according to Knittel.

A representative for Kearney State will address the legislative board members at the public hearings Dec. 12 in Kearney.

"We support coordination in higher education," Knittel said. "However the needs of mid-Nebraska clearly support the programs that currently exist on campus."

Wayne State College president Lyle Seymour agreed with Knittel about the reasons he had some concern with the current plan.

"We are for ending unnecessary duplication but not at

the expense of curtailing programs for our service region," he said.

Unduly restrictive

The program is unduly restrictive for the state colleges, he said. He wants the committee to broaden the programs for the state colleges.

Seymour said programs in existence for several years would be curtailed. One of these is the baccalaureate degree in medical technology, he said.

Another problem he sees with the plan is that it limits expansion in certain fields if the school decides community needs warrant a new program.

The specialist degree in educational administration would be allowed in colleges where it is now offered, according to the plan. Seymour said this would prohibit his school from instituting the program later since Wayne

does not currently offer the program.

Seymour said a representative from Wayne will appear at the Norfolk public hearing Dec. 6.

Located 300 miles west of the nearest state college, Kearney, Chadron must meet additional educational needs of its area, according to college President Edwin C. Nelson.

The public hearing on the legislative committee's proposal was Nov. 21 in Chadron, Nelson said. About 250 to 300 people attended, he said.

The main point brought out in the hearing was that the committee "shouldn't close the gate" on new programs, he said.

Master's degree programs would be limited to educational fields only, he said. "We would be prohibited to even plan any new programs," he said.

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