

# Regent candidates focus on salaries, fees and budget

By Rod Murphy

Faculty salaries, student fees and the university budget are important issues to the regents candidates in the upcoming May 9 election battle.

Ed Schwartzkopf, who holds the 1st District seat, and Kermit Hansen, from the 2nd District, are both seeking re-election.

The challengers running for the 1st District post are Leo Hill, Richard Halvorsen and write-in candidate Kirk Erlich.

Hopefuls in the 2nd District are Arden Means, Edward Wenzl, Steven Shovers and Harlan Nelson.

Leo Hill, 65, retired Lincoln businessman and 1934 UNL graduate, is running for the board because, he says, he has a gift of leadership.

"I have a knack for getting people to do things," he said. "I don't say 'you do this' I say 'let's do this together.'"

Hill is a past president and member of several organizations and many university groups.

If elected as a regent, Hill said one of his first priorities would be to help raise money for the university through the NU Foundation.

On the issue of speakers, Hill said, he supports the program. He said he thought campus groups should bring speakers in on their own. Hill said it was important for students to get involved with raising money for speakers.

Other goals Hill has if elected to the board, would be to improve Architectural Hall and authorize prevention maintenance on existing buildings.

Richard Halvorsen, 31, of Lincoln who also is running for the 1st District regents seat, said the most important need at the university is the overcrowding problem.

Halvorsen said he thinks there are plenty of classrooms but not enough faculty members to teach in them.

Some money, now earmarked for renovations or building projects could be shifted to pay the salaries of more faculty personnel to help end the overcrowding, he said.

Another reason he is running for regent, he said, is his dissatisfaction with the regents' action concerning student fees for speakers.

Halvorsen said student support for the previous speaker fees program was "fairly well substantiated." He referred to a petition presented to the board at the Feb-

ruary meeting containing some 5,000 signatures from students indicating their support of mandatory student fees for speakers.

"The regents just looked at it (the petition) and seemed to say, 'That's nice,' and then dropped it in file 13," he said.

Halvorsen also addressed the issue of faculty salaries, saying money should be spent for salary increases rather than new buildings that are not needed.

Halvorsen works for the state Department of Correctional Services and is a 1969 UNL graduate.

He now is attending graduate school at UNL part time where he is studying criminal justice.

Kirk Erlich, 23, is the only write-in candidate for regent. He also is running in the 1st District race.

Erlich said he is running because he is dissatisfied with the job the regents have been doing, particularly in the area of student fees funding for campus speakers.

"I don't like the way the regents knuckled under to a pressure group on speaker fees," he said.

Erlich is a broadcast journalism major and a theater major.

As a student, he said he could better represent student views than Hill or Schwartzkopf.

If elected to the post, Erlich would like to see the student fee structure changed and a new parking policy enacted, he said.

He said campus speakers should again receive student fee funding. He said he also would like to see a depth study of how student fees are spent.

Concerning parking, Erlich said, "While the regents are preoccupied with such important issues as stadium expansion, they should be trying to get some decent parking."

Erlich said he also supports allowing the student regents the right to vote at meetings and alcohol consumption in the residence halls.

In the 2nd District race, there are four challengers for the board position.

Arden Means, 50, is seeking the seat now held by incumbent Kermit Hansen.

Means said he disagrees with the board decision regarding campus speakers. He said the student support for speakers should be restored.

Means also said he was concerned about low faculty salaries. For many instructors,

he said the teaching load was too high.

Means said he thinks a better liaison between the governor, Nebraska Legislature and university has to be forged before many needed changes can be made.

He added that he hoped, if elected, he could bring a "common sense approach" to university government.

Edward Wenzl, 30, also is running for the 2nd District regent post.

Wenzl said the board should look into the possibility of faculty unionization to replace the tenure system. Such a program would help solve various problems, including working benefits, that the faculty now experiences, he said.

Wenzl said he thinks student fees should be spent for speakers. He said speakers were for everyone and it was a matter of choice whether to attend a speech or not.

The problem of low faculty salaries, he said, is not unique to the University of Nebraska.

"All colleges think they have to recruit higher quality faculty through higher salaries," he said.

He said that as student enrollment declines in the next few years, faculty also will have to be cut back. This will free money for higher salaries for those who remain.

At the present time, he said, it would be better to offer more benefits to faculty members, not more money.

Wenzl is an Omaha life insurance agent.

Steven Shovers is the only student candidate running in the 2nd District race. Formerly UNO student body president and non-voting member of the Board of Regents, Shovers is now three credits short of his masters degree in urban education.

If elected to the board, Shovers said he would like to act as a watchdog to make the board more fiscally accountable.

He suggested a zero-based budgeting system be implemented for each department.

Shovers also said he was alarmed to learn that "42 percent of all state employees were employed by the university."

He suggested that the number of staff personnel could be cut, which would allow more money for faculty salaries, and education programs.

He said he would like to raise faculty salaries, if possible. However, he said he did not know if it could be done given the budget now allocated the university by the

Legislature.

Shovers said, if elected, he would push for holding regent meetings outside Lincoln.

"The regents should meet in every district of the state," he said. "This is a statewide university."

The last candidate on the ballot for the 2nd District seat is Harlan Nelson, 62, who is a businessman with a petroleum company.

Nelson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, said he is running for regent in order to "put something back from what I received at land-grant colleges," he said.

If elected regent, Nelson said he would try to end some of the remedial courses now taught at the university.

"Universities are sometimes prone to do things that should be done in the high schools," he said.

The university's function is to provide people with background that they can use in their vocation, he said, as well as help them become a more viable citizen in the community.

On the issue of student fees, Nelson said there should be both voluntary and mandatory fees. Fees for speakers would fall into the first category, he said.

On the issue of faculty salaries, he said faculty members were facing the same problems as the rest of the community.

"Those people face inflation like everybody else and should be treated accordingly," he said.

Because of his involvement in the business world, Nelson said he believes he is qualified to sit on the board of regents who manage the "largest business in the state of Nebraska."

## Robert Raun

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interested in social and political matters as they were 8 or ten years ago. I don't mean that students shouldn't be concerned with ideological matters but I think that students today have a better balance between those things and practical concerns than they did eight or ten years ago.

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