



Robert Raun

By Todd Hegert

Q: What do you see as your role as an NU regent?

A: My primary role as a regent is to select competent administrators and assess their performance, and to make policy decisions such as setting budget guidelines.

Q: How do you view NU's reputation among other institutions of higher learning?

A: NU's reputation among other institutions is quite good. I wish it were better but we are making progress.

Q: What is the future of the speakers program at UNL?

A: The future of the speaker's program depends upon the support that it gets from within the student body. I think the structure of the program as it now stands will accommodate a very good speakers program but it's going to depend upon determination and hard work on the part of the students. Mandatory fees will pay for some speakers and if the students work hard enough for it they can also get the controversial speakers they want.

Q: Do you anticipate any other action on the speakers program?

A: No. At least not until we have had a chance to assess the progress of the current plans for the speakers program.

Q: How do you feel about the university in the parent role?

A: I think the die is cast when students come to the university. Most are adults by that time, or if they're not, they should be. But at the same time, the parents of students expect that we should have a reasonable amount of regulations. I think we need to take a moderate position on rules. We aren't here to play the role of parents, but parents expect that we won't let just anything go.

Q: How do you feel about a voting student regent? What are the chances that Nebraska voters will approve a voting student regent?

A: I don't think that voters would approve of a voting student regent and if they did I think it would be unconstitutional because the courts have insisted that in all governing bodies the principle of one man, one vote be used. If the voting student regent were from the same district as another regent you would have unequal representation of the other districts. Or the student regent may not even be a resident of the state of Nebraska.

Q: Which of your constituents do you listen to more—students or their parents?

A: There is no question that I listen to the tax-paying citizens of Nebraska, and not just parents of students, more than students. That does not mean that views of the students are not considered because they are.

Q: How much contact do you have with UNL, especially students and faculty, between monthly regents meetings?

A: That varies from month to month depending on what's going on that month. In some cases I have very much contact with the university between our monthly meetings. I have five of my own children going to the university so I keep in contact that way too.

Q: What do you think the students are most interested in now on campus?

A: I think students now are more interested in getting an education and not so

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Ed Schwartzkopf

By Todd Hegert

Q: What do you see as your role as an NU regent?

A: My role as a member of the Board of Regents is to establish policy for the various campuses in the University of Nebraska system, and to make certain that we follow a course that's going to improve the quality of education for all students in the University of Nebraska.

Q: How do you view NU's reputation among other institutions of higher learning?

A: If you're talking about the Ivy League schools or the prestige schools on either coast, we're not up to that level. But we do have programs of excellence and we're moving in that direction. The important thing is that we're making real progress in improving the quality of education at NU.

Q: What do you think is the future of the speaker's program?

A: The number one issue right now is trying to determine what really constitutes a speaker. We have delegated this responsibility to the chancellors of each campus or their designees. It is going to be extremely difficult to determine what constitutes a speaker especially because there are so many different categories of speakers. There will be no simple yes and no decision.

Q: Do you anticipate any more action on the speakers program?

A: I think this will be a recurring item for the members of the board and also for the administration. This is something we need to work out together and students need to be involved along with administrators.

Q: How do you feel about university in the role of the parent?

A: It depends on what age group you're talking about. When you have over half of the students in the dorm who are under the legal drinking age you have some serious problems. Where things like booze on campus are concerned it is the legal problems more than a question of the university in the parent role that is important.

I would be extremely unhappy if we had those kinds of activities, such as booze on campus, that would encourage our youngsters to violate state laws.

Q: How do you feel about a voting student regent? Do you think Nebraska voters would approve of a voting student regent?

A: I don't think the real key to input from students is whether a student regent has a vote or not. I think it is more important to get input from all the various factions of the student body. If the student had the vote it would still be only one vote. I don't think we can expect one student to be president of all the students and represent them all with his vote on the board. I think it is more important to have as wide a student representation as possible.

Q: Which of your constituents do you listen to more—students or their parents?

A: That's easily answered because the students are right here. The parents we only hear from when they feel something isn't going right. We are captive of the student's opinions much more readily and more often than we are of their parents.

Q: How much contact do you have with the university, especially students and faculty, between the monthly regents

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Robert Simmons

By Cindy Coglianesse

Q: What do you see as your role as an NU regent?

A: To represent the public in the state of Nebraska and the university.

Q: How do you view NU's reputation among other institutions of higher learning?

A: The university is very good in the state of Nebraska and as far as I know all throughout the United States.

Q: What is the future of the speakers program at UNL?

A: I don't know if there is any significant difference in the speaker program. If everyone is correct that the students are overwhelmingly in favor of it then the students will finance it and everything will be the same.

Q: Do you anticipate any other action on the speakers program? Why or why not?

A: I certainly don't contemplate starting any action myself. Somebody else might bring up something but I don't intend to.

Q: How do you feel about in loco parentis, the university in the parent's role?

A: I don't understand how a university can fall in the position of loco parentis.

Q: How do you feel about a voting student regent? What are the chances Nebraska voters would approve a voting student regent?

A: The regents represent the legal voters and the students who are eligible to vote are also the legal voters and they would have their vote with the regents in their voting.

Q: Which of your constituents do you listen to more—students or their parents?

A: I don't know who I listen to more. Whenever anyone talks to me I listen to whoever it is who talks to me. So far I haven't seen any conflict between students and parents.

Q: How much contact do you have with UNL?

A: I get a bushel-basket of mail every month and I go through and read it. There is also a long-distance telephone between my office and the campus and vice versa. I talk with the campus several times a week.

Q: What do you think students on campus are interested in now?

A: My impression at the present time is that students are better educated. The bulk of the students who come to the university are better educated when they get here. I think they are interested in getting a good education at a university with a good reputation and getting a job when they are through.

Q: How would you evaluate your performance on the board? What are you proud of, what do you wish you had done differently?

A: I don't know that there is anything I would have done differently. I would like to have gotten more things accomplished. As chairman, I don't think I made any accomplishments as an individual. I think the regents accomplished quite a bit.



Kermit Wagner

By Cindy Coglianesse

Q: What do you see as your role as NU regent?

A: Our primary goal is to develop policy for the university and then ask the administration to administrate the policy. The second role is to hire and retain administrators that will develop a policy that is formulated by the NU Board of Regents.

Q: How do you view NU's reputation among other institutions of higher education?

A: The University of Nebraska . . . also UNO and the medical school have made considerable progress in the last six to seven years. I would say we are in the upper percentile as far as quality education is concerned.

Q: What is the future of the speaker's program at UNL?

A: I think good. The main objection that we have from a lot of students and parents is the usage of mandatory fees for controversial speakers. The university has the right to have any political, ideological speaker on campus. It is not the policy of the regents to restrict these political speakers.

My suggestion is that speakers be allowed on campus as before, but those who want to hear a particular speaker—especially if he is political or ideological—are the ones who should participate in the fund raising . . .

Q: Do you anticipate any other action on the speaker's program? Why or why not?

A: Not really. I hope that the . . . policy would continue to have speakers and, for that matter, controversial speakers. The use of mandatory fees is the real crux.

Q: How do you feel about the university in parent role?

A: I think that is overplayed. I think the students that come out of high school and down to the university are practically voting age. They're feeling their independence, and I don't believe the university is considered by the students as a mother hen. I don't think the students want it. They want freedom of action and freedom of thought. They are released from their parental ties, and they want the opportunity to exhibit their independence and their way of life.

Q: How do you feel about a voting student regent? What are the chances the Nebraska voters will approve a voting student regent?

A: Originally, I was very much opposed to a student regent's participation with the board. But I've changed my mind. We've had some very fine contributions by student regents, and with the accomplishments that these individuals have contributed to the university and the responsibility they have assumed, I believe they should be given the power to vote.

Q: Which of your constituents do you listen more to—students or their parents?

A: I listen to both. I think both should be considered. The student is concerned with everyday transitions that he or she is going through in university life. I think we owe a responsibility to the parents to assure them that they are getting a quality education for their children.

Q: How much contact do you have with UNL, especially students and faculty

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