

Union audit slated for fall

A private firm will perform a management audit of Nebraska Union operations this fall in accordance with recommendations made to the Board of Regents July 28.

Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, suggested the audit in a report on Nebraska Union operations and policies.

Armstrong and Miles Tommeraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance, were directed last month by UN-L Chancellor Roy Young to investigate criticisms of union management presented to the regents in May and June.

Graduate students Bob Simonson and Carol Petersen had criticized plans for Union expansions and renovations which Union director Allen Bennett said were necessary to recoup financial losses of last year and expected this year.

Regent Robert Prokop of Papillion had questioned why the Nebraska Union last year had the highest administrative operating costs of all unions of Big Eight universities, the second highest income from funds like student fees and was the only union to lose money.

Armstrong told the regents that the financial status of the union is difficult to assess because of the "nature of the beast."

He called the Union a difficult

operation to manage because it receives some money from student fees, some from state funds for utilities and grounds maintenance as well as some from self generated income.

The Nebraska Union is currently under a lot of pressure, Armstrong said, because the state has budget pressures and projects to increase self-generated funds are "highly controversial."

Problems are further compounded because in five years the cost of goods have increased at a greater rate (126 percent) than the sales rate (102 percent). He said labor costs have increased 87 percent and profits have risen only 79 percent.

But the Union appeared to have the highest administrative operating costs of Big Eight unions only because "we were comparing apples and oranges," Armstrong said.

Armstrong said he discovered that only two schools included in their reports the salaries of all persons in administrative positions. Most were using only the salaries of top administrative officials, he said.

Charges by Simonson and Petersen that student fee money in special accounts is being used for projects other than for what they were allocated by the

regents and the Legislature are unfounded, Armstrong said.

Because Bennett is accountable to the Armstrong and Tommeraasen any deviance from regents specifications would have to be approved by them. A great discrepancy would be taken by the vice chancellors to the regents for approval, Armstrong explained.

Armstrong said the expansion and renovation proposals that were criticized are justified because "management has to be creative in order to stay alive."

He said facelifting is in order "simply to make the place more attractive to the people in the environment." Such projects do not need to increase revenue to be justified, he added.

Claims that there has been an intentional effort to convert the Union into a shopping mall and to destroy the living room concept of the Union are exaggerated, Armstrong said.

"I don't believe that we are near that point in our development."

Despite charges to the contrary, Armstrong said decisions regarding the Union are made with adequate student input and influence. Ten of 14 members of the Union Advisory Board are students, he said.

Marijuana pickers harvest in Nebraska

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Hagge said, radio stations in rural areas will broadcast 60-second public information announcements over the next few months.

The announcements ask that people watch for harvesters and say that the

"harvesters often rent old farm houses and live in them until shipments are made. Many of them are from out of state, so watch for out of state license plates. Obtain a description and report it to the state patrol or local law enforcement officials."

Hagge said State Patrol information indicates Nebraska "ditch weed" usually goes to Texas and Arizona where it is mixed with Colombian marijuana, which is more potent. Hagge said the difference in quality between Colombian and Nebraska marijuana is like comparing Cadillacs and Fords. He said the wild Nebraska marijuana is of a "poor quality" but can be mixed which would allow a bigger profit for the seller.

The State Patrol investigated 30 harvesting operations last year. Hagge said 69 arrests were made and that 3,235 pounds of marijuana were confiscated. Of those arrested, 21 were from Nebraska, 14 were from California, nine from Colorado and the others from 12 different states.

Assistant Lancaster county attorney Gary Lacey said, cases involving harvesting of marijuana occur in late August and September, when most of the harvesting is done. He said the Lancaster county attorney's office handles five to ten harvesting cases each year.

"The charge depends on the evidence, it depends if you catch them tying it in bundles or chopping it down," he said.

Possession of over a pound, harvesting or delivering marijuana is a felony that carries a one to five year sentence.

Backpacking

Two spaces are open in the UN-L recreation department backpacking trip to Targhee National Forest in Wyoming, Aug. 18-27.

Three pre-trip meetings are required before the group leaves Aug. 18.

The cost of the trip is \$115 which includes food, transportation, insurance and equipment.

Dan Steller, recreation office director at 1740 Vine Street has more information.



Rafting trip

Applications are being taken for the UN-L recreation department rafting trip in north-central Idaho, Aug. 19-27.

Students with rafting experience are preferred for the 80-mile trip down the Main Salmon River.

Two five-man rafts with paddles and one larger gear boat with a rowing frame will be used on the trip. A limited number of kayakers may go, but must provide their own equipment.

The recreation department will provide transportation, food on the river, rafts and equipment, camping equipment and supervisory staff. Cost of the trip is \$160 for rafters, \$105 for kayakers.

A pre-trip meeting is scheduled for Aug. 14.

More information is at the recreation office, 1740 Vine Street.

Football tickets

Tickets are available for the Sept. 2 Nebraska-Alabama football game at Birmingham.

Tickets must be ordered at the athletic ticket office. Cost is \$10. Tickets not sold will be returned to Alabama Aug. 9.

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