

Regents Hall renovations to result in conference room

By Brenda Moskovits

A new conference room in the basement of Regents Hall should be finished before the NU Board of Regents' December meeting, according to Robert Pazderka, capital construction coordinator.

The room replaces one on the first floor which seats about 40 to 50 spectators, Pazderka said.

The new room normally will accommodate 94 spectators, but chairs can be brought in to seat a total of 223 people (including the board members, press and

staff) and still comply with fire regulations, he said.

The room will be large enough to house various business and academic meetings which formerly were held in the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

When Regents Hall was built, the space was intended for a conference room, but the regents waited until last May to appropriate no more than \$95,000 to renovate the empty space, Pazderka said.

Divided space

The area, a total of 3,000 square feet also will be divided into a smaller conference area for private meetings and a storage area.

Tables for the press and staff will be provided on both sides of the board table.

The present conference area will be made into a smaller conference room and office space, Pazderka said.

The major cost in addition to heating, cooling and furnishings will be the lighting system, Pazderka said. At the request of Nebraska Educational Television, special lights will be installed in a raised ceiling over the board table for NETV and other television media, he said.

The renovation costs are:

General contracting (wall and ceiling construction, floor and wall covering): \$38,865, electrical contracting (wiring, lighting and light fixtures): \$21,791, and mechanical contracting (heating and cooling), to total \$80,484.

Closed circuit television

Architect fees are \$2,500 and \$21,477 is being allocated to buy an undetermined amount of furnishings, according to statistics provided by Pazderka.

He said a total of \$20,000 has been donated towards renovations.

Pazderka said he is suggesting to NU President Ronald Roskens that additional equipment would permit meetings to be broadcast across the NETV network, he said. Broadcast equipment would permit two-way communication between people in two different parts of the state, he said.

Receiving equipment would total around \$3,773 and broadcasting equipment would be an additional \$17,486, according to Pazderka.

Roskens will decide whether to bring the matter to the board, Pazderka said.

Speech program revamped

"Less talk, more action" could characterize the restructuring of UNL's introductory speech course this fall.

Associate Professor William Seiler and Gustav Friedrich, speech communication department chairman, are developing eight separate units in place of the standard Speech 109. Currently, more than 700 students in 30 sections are enrolled in the class. The professors say they hope to have pilot courses in several of the study units available to some students during the second semester.

Instead of 45 formally structured lecture-discussion sessions, students enrolled in the units will use a resource center where a limited number of lectures will be combined with the use of written and audio-visual materials. Graduate students and upperclassmen in speech communication will help students in the unit exercises and projects.

Friedrich said the Speech Communication Department

plans to establish a complete teaching-learning center on the third floor of Burnett Hall. He said using upperclassmen as instructors will reduce the teaching loads of graduate assistants, and give undergraduate students a valuable educational experience.



Based on the Mastery Approach of educational theorist Benjamin Bloom and Personalized System of Instruction models pioneered by Fred Keller, the new speech program will emphasize development of specific speech skills rather than learning the generalized content of the present introductory course.

Among the study units are those dealing with communication theory, public speaking, non-verbal communication, interpersonal communication and small group discussion.

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