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## Bennett's 'stress-related' leave requires switch in staff positions

By Cindy Coglianese  
Barb Richardson

As of yesterday Nebraska Union director Allen Bennett is on the medical leave of absence until the end of February on the advice of his physician, according to Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Armstrong said he anticipated an update at the end of February concerning Bennett's health. Bennett's return or continued absence will be based on the update, Armstrong said.

Although Armstrong would not say what Bennett's health problem is, Daryl Swanson, associate director and East Union manager, said Bennett's health problem was stress-related. Swanson added that Bennett has a long history of stress-related health problems.

### More responsibility

"For the month of February the Union staff will probably carry more responsibility," Armstrong said. "Mr. Swanson will be coordinator of the Union's activities."

Although Armstrong was not sure if Swanson would be the coordinator of Union activities and continue responsibilities as East Union director, Swanson said Tony Warner,

program coordinator of Campus Activities and Programs, will sit in as East Union director during Bennett's absence.

Admitting to the crucial untimeliness of Bennett's leave, Armstrong said decisions about current Union projects will be made during Bennett's absence. Armstrong said these projects include the selection of a new food manager, the reorganization of the Union's accounting system and a student survey on the Union.

### Status quo

Swanson said he "will be working closely with Dr. Armstrong to maintain the status quo." He added that he would have less than full responsibility in making decisions.

Discussing Bennett's conflicts with recently proposed changes in the Union, Armstrong said Bennett's 20 or more years as Union director have been a cause for minor resistance to proposed program changes.

Armstrong said this would be natural for anyone who has had so much input in the shaping the Union.

"Mr. Bennett has been supportive of some of the changes in the Union," Armstrong said. He added that Bennett has actively supported realigning the Union's accounting system and has given a great deal of support to the selection of a food service manager.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Union Director Al Bennett

## Engineering faculty members criticize Dean Hanna

By Scott Nelson

In the last six months an increasing amount of attention has been raised by students, faculty, administrators and regents about the condition of the College of Engineering and Technology.

Although opinions vary on how bad things are, all of those interviewed agreed on the same problems.

The College of Engineering and Technology is in a serious financial crunch, and massive additional funding must be found immediately.

The college desperately needs more professors. Class space shortage is critical, and enrollment restrictions planned for the fall of 1979 are at best a temporary solution.

According to George Hanna, dean of the college, the problems are the results of the tremendous demand for engineering students, which has caused skyrocketing enrollment, a serious shortage of faculty and an increasing gap between the college's needs and budgeted money.

### Low on resources

"Our problem is the resources are not enough to meet the demands of the program," Hanna said.

After accounting for inflation, he said, the college receives only three percent more money than it did in 1972, while enrollment has increased 31 percent during the same period.

Hanna said the demand for engineers by industry makes it very difficult to find qualified instructors.

An engineer with a masters degree can go into industry with a starting salary of between \$20,000 and \$21,000, while UNL offers new professors with advanced degrees between \$17,000 and \$19,000, he said.

Hanna said the low salary is the main reason the college has been 11 faculty members short of its budgeted number for more than a year, and even further behind the number needed to meet the school's enrollment.

"We can't even hope to meet the market price, the only thing we can do is to get the word out to more people," he said.

### Need graduate students

Hanna said he is attempting to increase research and graduate student grants in order to attract more graduate students, who might lighten the already heavy teaching load on the engineering faculty.

Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, confirmed that he has promised Dean Hanna \$72,000 to build the graduate program.

He said he was not sure where the money will come from, but mentioned the possibility of matching funds with the University Foundation.

Hanna also said the college faces an equipment shortage, and even if instruments are depreciated at half the accepted value, funding for repair and replacement of equipment has been far below the need.

"You can't even keep up. The value of the dollar has dropped so much we have no more buying power than we did in 1972," Hanna said.

Hedges said he has more than doubled the departments' allocation for equipment, from \$90,000 in 1977 to \$215,000 in 1978, but both Hanna and Hedges agree that is not nearly enough to solve the problem.

Hanna said he is optimistic about the future of the

college and said he feels the changes have already begun.

"We have the attention of the administration and they are doing everything they can," Hanna said.

Many faculty members are much more skeptical and say Hanna is admitting only part of the problem.

Six faculty members contacted by the *Daily Nebraskan* said Dean Hanna has shown no leadership and has little contact with faculty members.

They were reluctant to be quoted by name because they said they thought Hanna was a vindictive dean.

They said Hanna has punished several faculty members for speaking out about the engineering programs by restricting salary increases and advancement.

All said the engineering program was in bad shape and that faculty moral was very low.

"The faculty has no faith, no confidence in the dean and don't think he has been effective," said one faculty member.

### No understanding

Another said Hanna doesn't understand the faculty and pointed out that Hanna was director of the Ohio State University water resources project for 10 to 12 years before becoming dean at UNL.

"His background is in administration as opposed to teaching," the source said.

Several faculty members expressed their concern over Hanna's unavailability to faculty members.

## Engineering college review planned

By Scott Nelson

A review of the College of Engineering and Technology and its administration is in the works, according to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Ned Hedges.

If the review takes place it will be a hard fought victory for faculty members who have been asking for a review of the college for almost a year.

But many faculty members are skeptical.

They said they have heard promises of review and, as of yet, none of the promises have come through.

Overcrowded classes, inadequate and uncompetitive salaries, too few faculty members and insufficient funds to keep pace with skyrocketing enrollment are a few of the problems faculty members want examined.

A faculty member, who asked to remain anonymous, said "If we can get the program review and these problems out in the open, maybe something will be done."

### Struggle in March

The plans for a review have been going on for a year, the faculty member said, but the real struggle began at a March 1978 Faculty Senate meeting.

Senators representing the College of Engineering and Technology proposed a resolution at the March meeting to review all college programs (including the engineering program) as outlined in the UNL bylaws. The resolution passed unanimously.

One faculty senator said, at the time of passage, it seemed ironic that the senate should have to call for a resolution to obey the UNL bylaws.

They said Hanna takes more than 15 trips a year to engineering workshops and conventions, and while he may be one of the best known men in the field of engineering education, he is little known to the UNL engineering faculty.

Many of the faculty members said they are also unhappy with the university administration and said university resources have been poorly allocated.

They produced figures which show that while the percentage of students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences has gone down 12 percent, on a 1973 basis its allocation has increased 51 percent.

Teachers College enrollment percentage has dropped almost 15 percent while the based budget has increased 60 percent.

### List of perceptions

At a meeting of the College of Engineering and Technology on Jan. 9, a faculty member presented a list of 11 perceptions on the situation the college faces.

The faculty members voted unanimously to adopt the list as the views of the engineering faculty and to send copies to Hedges, and UNL Chancellor Roy Young.

Hedges, who was at the meeting but left before the vote was taken, said he received a copy. Young said he also received a copy of the faculty's view.

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Hedges accepted the resolution, but the engineering college was not yet among the colleges reviewed.

In September 1978, five engineering department spokesmen from UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha approached Hedges and asked that the engineering college be reviewed.

According to one source, Hedges promised a plan for review by Nov. 1, but no review was made by that date nor was an explanation offered by Hedges to the chairman.

### UNL, UNO discussion

On Dec. 16, Omaha Regent Kermit Hansen invited a total of 17 faculty members from UNL and UNO to discuss the problems in the engineering programs at both schools.

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