

# daily nebraskan



Regent Robert Prokop

Photo by Bob Pearson

## Regent chairman to reply to NU cover up charges

By Rocky Strunk

NU Regent Chairman Robert Koefoot of Grand Island will meet with six state senators today at 4:30 to discuss allegations by Regent Robert Prokop of a "cover up" of information by university officials.

"We feel that Prokop had some legitimate gripes and want an opportunity to hear both sides of the controversy," said Sen. Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale. Sieck and five state senators met with Prokop on Tuesday after Prokop had sent them a seven page letter.

In this letter, Prokop charged that the university tried to "cover up" information about the Eppley Institute in Omaha, veterinary testing fees at the agricultural institute based in Lincoln, faculty consultancies and the University Foundation. He also stated that it was "one of the biggest cover-ups of information and detail that one could find in the state of Nebraska."

### Total complexity

"I think we should dig into this matter further," said Sieck after the hour meeting with Prokop on Tuesday. "From what's been reported here, I do feel something looks a bit shady."

Sen. George Burrows of Adams said, "I'd like to go much further. The accountability and funding at the University has been buried in total complexity."

According to Burrows, one of the most serious management problems at the university may be a situation where the Uni-

versity of Nebraska Foundation operates the university without adequate accountability by either the regents or the legislature.

Burrows prepared an amendment asking for closer control of legal fees stemming from one of Prokop's charges of excessive legal fees paid for services to Eppley. Those fees, according to Prokop, totaled more than \$46,000 in the past nine years.

### Firmer position

Burrows also said he is considering either an amendment or resolution that would pressure the regents to take a firmer position on the internal management of the university.

"Hopefully, a discussion on the floor would bring out some logical solutions and the regents can handle their own problems," Burrows said.

Sieck suggested that a possible solution to Prokop's charges could be intervention by the Chancellor or another audit. Prokop charged that a previous audit was incomplete.

"I'm anxious to hear Koefoot's side of the issue," said Burrows. "Perhaps he can present some arguments that may reduce the intensity of the problem."

Koefoot said, "I haven't been told what went on Tuesday but I plan on stating the facts as I see them."

"I don't agree with any of his (Prokop) accusations and feel that he isn't supportive of the university through these accusations."

### Unfounded accusations

Koefoot added that he thought "accusations were completely unfounded in every respect."

"The records at the university are entirely open and any interested state senator can and should review them," he said.

After the meeting Tuesday, Prokop said he has corresponded to legislators for years, but this time "they got worried about some of the material."

Prokop cited a need for more accountability in some areas, including the NU Foundation Corporation that raises funds.

He questioned why foundation employees pay scales can't be made public since people should know where their money is going.

According to Prokop, he has attempted to gain this information from the NU systems office but hasn't yet received a reply.

"There's not an awful lot they (the senators) can do other than ask questions about the university's practices," Prokop said.

## Schwartzkopf denies Prokop charges

By Randy Essex

NU Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said Wednesday Regent Robert Prokop "is way off base" in his charges of cover-ups by the NU Board of Regents and the UNL administration.

The Lincoln regent said the only reason he can imagine for Prokop's charges is that Willard Waldo, who ran against Prokop the last time he was up for election, uses the Veterinary and Diagnostic Testing Laboratory on East Campus.

In a letter to seven state senators, Prokop charged that the lab had done \$191,123 worth of free testing for seven corporations and individuals during a 24-30 month period.

"I cannot find any other reason (for the charges)," Schwartzkopf said.

Prokop also charged his fellow regents of "inaction and indecision except in crisis."

Schwartzkopf said the regents did act on the matter at a May 20, 1978 meeting, when they heard two-hours of testimony from groups that used the testing services.

### Decision on testing

Those groups wanted the testing to be free, but the regents decided it would be better if Vice Chancellor Martin Massengale of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources recommended a fee, Schwartzkopf said.

"It's a thing of the past," Schwartzkopf said in reference to the \$191,000 in free testing. The regents publicly took action and set a fee, Schwartzkopf emphasized.

"I can't understand why he runs to the Legislature when this is dead business," Schwartzkopf added. "He was at the meeting, he heard the testimony, and now he resurrects it as if it is a big issue."

Schwartzkopf said it is easy to grab headlines, but one must be sure of accuracy. He said he intends to bring the matter

up at the Saturday regents' meeting to clear the air.

### Consulting accusations

"Just not true" is how Schwartzkopf described Prokop's accusation that banking professor L. Wayne Dobson holds seven professional consulting and advisory board positions. Prokop's letter said Dobson's outside duties created conflicts of interest, and had not been approved by the regents.

But Schwartzkopf said faculty members who did consulting had been investigated by the board before, and Dobson was not found to have a conflict.

Dobson would only say that he is not a paid consultant, but he would not comment on whether he thought the consulting created a conflict.

"I just plan to sit back and see the administration response," Dobson said. He said he has had no contact with UNL President Ronald Roskens on the matter.

Vice Chancellor Massengale would not comment on the matter. He said he under-

stood that Roskens and corporation secretary William Swanson were handling the response.

### Handling charges

Roskens was out of town Wednesday, and Swanson said he did not understand why Massengale said he (Swanson) was involved in the response. Swanson said that the campus chancellors would have to respond about consulting jobs other than those approved by the board.

Concerning Prokop's allegations about the Eppley Cancer Institute at the NU Medical Center, Schwartzkopf said he is tired of continuing harassment of Eppley officials.

Prokop charged that Eppley director Philippe Shubik held 17 outside consultancies, and that he spent 43 days away from the center on outside activities during three months in 1977.

In his letter, Prokop said this is "one of the biggest cover-ups on information and detail that one could find in the state."

## Cavanaugh to speak at UNL

Rep. John Cavanaugh, C-Neb., will discuss his "public service system" bill today.

Cavanaugh will be speaking at 3:30 by the Broyhill Fountain. In case of bad weather, he will speak in the Union's main lounge.

Cavanaugh was quoted in the *Daily Nebraskan* Jan. 19 as saying his legislation would not include a compulsory draft but "would provide for an individual to have the opportunity to elect between the military and civil service."

Under the proposal all males and females will register before their 18th

birthday. An individual would indicate a six-month period between the ages of 18 and 26 when he or she would be available for selection by the U.S. government.

Those chosen for duty during the designated six-month period will be inducted for two years of service. If their six-month periods lapse without notification, there is no obligation for that individual.

Cavanaugh presented his bill to the House of Representatives April 10.

Cavanaugh will answer questions at the end of his speech.

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