

Planning committee proposes program cuts

By Jeanne Mohatt

UNL's academic planning committee voted June 25 to recommend to the chancellor's office the elimination of UNL's Centennial College and UNO's general engineering program, said Norma Sue Griffin, the committee's chairperson.

Centennial College Senior Fellow Robert Fuller said Tuesday he is appealing the decision, and hopes the committee will reconsider.

Lyle Young, acting dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, would not comment on the decision.

The Board of Regents Planning Subcommittee proposed the elimination of both programs in May. Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, received the academic planning committee's recommendations Tuesday, and will make his recommendation to Chancellor Roy Young in about two weeks, he said. Young will then present his proposal to the regents at their July 26 meeting, and

the regents will make the final decision.

Griffin said, "The vote of the committee was to phase out both programs." The vote to recommend termination of UNO's engineering program was unanimous, while a majority voted to terminate Centennial College, she said.

"Intense discussion related to both proposals" took place before the vote, she said.

Alternative proposals also were considered, but were rejected because "they would create so many problems. It would mean the end of the programs anyway," she said.

Fuller said he intends to file an appeal and also get students and faculty to show support for Centennial College, an interdisciplinary program for outstanding undergraduate students.

"Several long-term supporters of Centennial College were out of town when the vote was taken," Fuller said. "Students didn't get a chance to have input on the vote."

Scott Kaup, the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska's representative on the committee, is working in Norfolk for the summer.

ASUN President Renee Wessels said Tuesday she will appoint someone to take Kaup's place at the meetings for the remainder of the summer.

Fuller said Centennial College has been appropriated \$135,000 for this year, but Hedges said he estimated the savings from the elimination of Centennial at \$80,000.

Hedges said the money saved by eliminating Centennial College will be specifically designated to another area. He said he has yet to recommend to Young the budget priorities for the coming year, but libraries will rank high on the priority list.

He said "no inherent conflict of interest" exists, even though the director of libraries, Gerald Rudolph, is a member of the academic planning committee.

"Gerald represents the perspectives of

the deans," he said, not the libraries.

Fuller said 13 people are on the academic planning committee this summer, but only seven people were at the meeting June 25. Hedges made the seventh person and he did not stay to vote.

Griffin said the committee did have a quorum and Hedges confirmed that.

Hedges said that if he decides to recommend to Young the elimination of Centennial College, he also must decide whether to recommend that the college be phased out over a period of two years or discontinued after the coming year.

Fuller said that last spring the college had the largest student credit hour production in its history.

The program's curriculum is made up by faculty and students themselves. The faculty are hired temporarily from the various colleges on campus.

"The benefit of the program has been completely overlooked," Fuller said, "and the primary people to suffer are the students."



Staff Photo by Joseph Berni

Art Monson, deputy director of the Governor's Special Grants office

NU faculty, students help G.I. citizens

Editor's note: This is part one in a three-part series on the Nebraska University's program to assist Grand Island tornado victims.

By Jeanne Mohatt

NU faculty and students with special knowledge and skills are helping Grand Island citizens rebuild their lives, homes and businesses after tornadoes ripped through that city June 3.

Evaluating crop damage, re-planning neighborhoods, training building inspectors and explaining how to remove glass from carpets are only a few of the ways people from NU are helping Grand Island tornado victims.

Those departments involved in the volunteer university program are the Colleges of Home Economics, Architecture, Business Administration and Engineering and Technology, and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Nine areas identified

Alan T. Seagren, the program's coordinator, said he, Cecil Steward (Dean of the College of Architecture), and various subcommittee chairpersons of the mayor's emergency coordinating committee identified nine areas in which NU can provide help to Grand Island. The areas are:

- mediating between homeowners and insurance companies;
- training building inspectors and providing a team of inspectors for building projects;
- establishing a neighborhood advisory committee;
- providing consumer protection information;
- assisting small business operators in financial planning;
- determining federal assistance available;
- providing recreational activities;
- studying the fiscal status of the city government due to loss of revenues and increased costs;
- and providing early-childhood, pre-school activities.

Seagren said the emergency coordinating committee asks him for names of people who are knowledgeable in these areas. Seagren then refers the requests for aid to the appropriate university departments. The deans and directors of the departments locate faculty and students with the needed special knowledge, and Seagren gives the names of these individuals to the committee. The committee then contacts the individuals.

Seagren said the committee's first request for aid came in the area of architecture.

"Faculty and students went to Grand

Island and worked with the city engineer (Richard Ellston) and assisted in the initial go around of appraising homes and buildings," he said.

"We were not there to impose our views or to tell them (city officials) what to do," he said.

The general guidelines also require that NU does not compete with services for which other individuals and organizations would normally be paid.

The Hall County extension office, a part of the cooperative extension service of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has provided information on how people should care for storm-damaged trees.

The College of Home Economics and Kathy Parrott, state extension specialist in housing and interior design, have provided material to Grand Island citizens explaining how to clean clothes, preserve food, remove glass from carpet, and watch out for consumer rip-offs.

The primary area of concern for Grand Island's government now, Seagren said, is the loss of revenue from electric utilities. The money normally coming in from people using electricity is no longer coming in. The city is still rebuilding power lines.

Don Pursell, bureau of business research director, has met with the mayor's

second week.

Failure to register is a felony carrying a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and five years in prison.

Strough said the registration form is short and will be stored and processed by Internal Revenue Service computers, because the I.R.S. has the largest government computer services available.

Strough said that he is aware of the potential for anti-draft registration demonstrations, and said that he will alert police if any trouble develops.

The post office is supposed to be reimbursed by the Selective Service for any extra expense that might be involved in registering the men, he said.

"However," he said, "one government agency getting money from another government agency is like pulling teeth when there aren't any."

Registration training begins

Training will begin next week to prepare about 35 postal workers to register 19-and-20-year-old men for the draft by July 21, according to Everett Strough, southeast Lincoln's post office coordinator for draft registration.

Strough said about 135 southeast Nebraska postal stations, including Lincoln stations, are preparing to register the young men. He said that no special hours or offices will be made to accommodate those registering for the draft.

Congress approved June 30, \$13.3 million to finance military-registration of about 4 million 19-and-20-year-old men at post offices throughout the country.

The first peacetime military registration since 1975 will require two weeks, with men born in 1960 registering during the first week and those born in 1961 registering the



Staff Photo by Janet Hommer

Al Seagren, Grand Island