

## Regents tell UNL to keep yearly Czech courses

By Jim Faddis

Regents Hall was transformed into a mini-Czechoslovakia Friday as 100 Nebraskans of Czech heritage voiced their opposition to a planned reduction in the frequency with which Czech language courses are offered at UNL.

Although some of the complaints were spoken in Czech, the NU Board of Regents got the message.

The complaints concerned a plan by the UNL Department of Modern Languages and Literature to offer beginning Czech courses on an every-other-year basis, rather than every year as they are now taught.

The reduction was planned to save money because of low enrollment in the classes.

But after five speakers told the regents that Nebraska's sizable Czech population wants the Czech program strengthened and not reduced, the regents instructed UNL Interim Chancellor Robert Rufford to

offer the classes every year.

Nebraska is the country's leader in Czech heritage and the university should help teach that heritage, Joe Vosoba of Wilber said.

Agreeing with Vosoba, Jaroslav Jizba of Omaha told the board that Nebraska has a responsibility to preserve the Czech language because the state has the highest Czech population percentage in the country.

Nebraska Czechs are willing to raise money for the language courses and work to increase their enrollment, State Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said.

A lack of money is the biggest problem the university faces and is why the reduction was planned, NU President Ronald Roskens told the group.

He said he supports the Czechs, "but we need you to tell the Legislature that you want programs like this continued."

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said he was "tremendously impressed"

by the Czechs' concern for the courses. Regent James Moylan of Omaha said the Czechs had shown that the university had "underestimated the feelings of a hell of a lot of stockholders in this university."

But Rufford warned the board that cuts like this will have to be made.

"We are not going to overspend the budget," he said.

"Now whenever other changes are planned, special interest groups are going to try to influence you," Rufford said.

In other action, the regents unanimously approved a reorganization plan of the UNL Teachers College.

The changes will combine the elementary education and the secondary education departments into a Center for Curriculum and Instruction.

Also, the Department of Educational Psychology and Measurements and the Department of History and Philosophy of Education will be combined into a Department of Educational Psychology and Social Foundations.

Dean Robert Egbert has said that the changes will give students a broader view of education and reduce costs at the Teachers College.

The regents also approved the spending of \$236,880 to make alterations in the Nebraska Union Crib.

Also at the meeting, the board awarded regents' professorships to eight UNL faculty members.

The eight were chosen because of their "distinguished reputations worldwide," Rufford said.

Each regents' professor will receive \$5,000 a year from the NU Foundation in addition to his or her normal salary.

The eight chosen were: Nicholas Babchuk, sociology; Ezekiel Bahar, electrical engineering; Paul Johnsgard, life sciences; Robert Knoll, English; Norman Rosenberg, agricultural meteorology and climatology; James Samson, physics; John Schmidt, agronomy; and Susan Welch, political science.

### Bonfire makes police burn

## Six students arrested at Friday morning fires

By Suzanne Sayed

Six students were arrested by Lincoln and UNL police early Friday when about a dozen bonfires were started on campus by a crowd of more than 1,000 students.

Vandals caused \$350 damage to a city firetruck, while police cruisers sustained slight damage from bottles and rocks. A pine tree was also burned to the ground, police said.

The crowd, according to one police officer, turned "ugly," yelled obscenities and threw rocks and bottles at police officers and firefighters attempting to control the crowd and put out the bonfires. Four police officers suffered minor injuries.

The six students were jailed for offenses including arson, resisting arrest, vandalism, assault and disorderly conduct. Several others were issued citations, police said.

A total of 52 officers and 14 firefighters were at the bonfires, which were fueled by furniture, barricades and

"anything that could burn," according to Bob Fey, UNL police investigator.

Police were unsure where furniture came from, although they said they assumed that students brought it from fraternities, sororities and residence halls. Some personal property may have been stolen, according to Lincoln Police Lt. Doug Ahlberg.

The activity began about 1 a.m., Ahlberg said. Ahlberg said the consensus of the police officers was probably one of surprise more than anything else.

"Most of the officers had felt the kids were well behaved—we had thought there was a pretty good working relationship between students and police. It was disappointing," he said.

"The officers were subjected to a lot of abuse," said UNL Police Lt. Joe Wehner. "They showed incredible resistance," he said.

Police said the activity on campus continued to a

lesser extent Friday night, as the back window of a police cruiser was broken out while it was on campus that night.

"Police must intervene anytime property or personal safety is threatened," Wehner said. "No one can predict what will happen with a large crowd like that."

"The affair seemed more like a riot," once student said. "Everything got a little out of hand."

"The cops got real thick," said another student. "It seemed like they had too much control."

However, another student said, "The policemen were just doing their job and it probably wasn't easy."



Photo by Jon Natvig

UNL students attempt to thwart police and firefighters efforts to put out one of Friday morning's bonfires. The students' cries of, "Defense, Defense" were no match for the water hose.



Photo by Jon Natvig

Sparks and Adrenalin ran high early Friday morning as UNL students celebrated the victory that never was. Shortly after this picture was taken, this Daily Nebraskan photographer was arrested. The charges later were dismissed.