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Bill requests extra appointed regents

By Alice Hrnicek

Three members of the NU Board of Regents would be appointed by the governor if voters approve a proposed constitutional amendment introduced as LB735 to the Nebraska Legislature.

Sen. Peter Hoagland of Omaha, the bill's sponsor, said the measure was intended to bring more accountability to the university.

Several regents disapprove of the bill because they feel elected regents are more accountable than appointed ones.

Current law provides for six to eight regents — now eight — to be elected by district. Hoagland's bill would add three appointed regents, making the number nine to 11.

An accompanying measure, LB 736, designates that the appointed regents would come from each of the three congressional districts. Hoagland said the bill would increase the number of regents so that current regents would not lose their positions.

"I don't think I want to abolish any elected regents," Hoagland said.

The Legislature appropriates money to the university which the regents are authorized to distribute. Hoagland said the regents would be more accountable if at least several of them were state-appointed.

"They are now sitting there all by themselves," he said. "This would unify government. I would prefer an all-appointed board, but I don't think that's realistic politically."

Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber, chairman of the board, said he didn't think that appointing regents would make them more accountable.

"When you come back down to accountability, Hoagland's accountable to his electorate, and we're accountable to our electorate," Prokop said. "I don't think I've ever seen a board work where there have been elected and appointed members."

Regent James Moylan of Omaha said that he prefers all regents remain elected and that he sees no reason to increase the number of regents.

"I think we find that elected regents are a little closer to the people."

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said he had not studied the proposal in detail and that it would be "irresponsible for me to comment on it at this time."

If approved by the Legislature, the proposal would be up for vote in this fall's state elections and would go into effect, if passed, as soon as the votes are counted.



Photo by Jodie Fields

State Sen. Don Dworak of Columbus looks up from a Newspaper on the sixth day of the legislative session.

Senators, students criticize proposal

By Betsy Miller

A proposal by the UNL Parking Advisory Committee to raise parking fines and the cost of parking permits drew criticism from the ASUN Senate at Wednesday night's meeting.

Kay Hinn and Shara Rice, student members on the advisory committees, appeared at the meeting to inform senators of a Feb. 2 hearing on the parking issue.

Hinn said although student members on the committee are opposed to the cost increases, the remaining members, including faculty and university officials, are in favor of the increases.

"The main purpose of the increase is not to raise revenues, but to deter people from breaking laws," said Doran Matzke, ASUN 2nd vice president who attended a meeting of the advisory committee.

However, several senators said the university's poor parking facilities force many students to park where they can find room and the cost increases won't stop parking violations.

"When you have no other alternative, you have to park somewhere," Sen. Brian Stonecipher said.

Sen. Teresa Thomssen said students don't park where they are supposed to because some lots are not safe.

"I'd park in my correct place only if I knew I could get

safely to where I was going," she said.

Matzke said a petition signed by students and given to the advisory committee at the Tuesday meeting could have been more effective if it had contained more signatures. But Matzke said the petition drive was hampered because signatures were gathered during dead week when some students were not around.

She encouraged ASUN members to attend the Feb. 2 hearing.

In other action, ASUN President Rick Mockler announced the Government Liaison Committee will hold a press conference Monday morning to discuss Gov. Thone's budget requests for the university. He said the press conference meeting place has not yet been decided.

Mockler said the Governor's proposed increase of 5.9 percent in the university's operations budget was "totally unrealistic" and that GLC and the State Student Association will have to make a concerted lobbying effort to convince the Legislature to provide more funding.

Sen. Becky Stingley told the Senate that its annual book exchange has netted \$5,072.27 so far. This year's operation will end Friday. Last year the exchange brought in \$1,300, she said.

The Senate receives 5 percent of the price students pay for the books and after three days of operation the Senate has received a profit of \$243.47, she said.

UNL's research bureau gives out the business

By Bob Glissmann

"Everything you always wanted to know about business . . ." can be answered by the Bureau of Business Research, according to one of its bulletins. After talking to Don Pursell, director of the bureau, one might see this statement applies, at least in regard to Nebraska's business.

The bureau, established in the College of Business Administration in 1922, publishes information on state and regional economic conditions. Data from such sources as the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Nebraska Department of Labor is presented "in a format where people can read it and use it," Pursell said.

One of the outlets for the information is *Business in Nebraska*, a monthly publication sent to more than 6,000 people and businesses statewide. The six-page flier lists area economic and population trends, as well as articles on such topics as the housing industry slump, the U.S. Consumer Price Index and regulation of the banking industry.

The bureau assists CBA in publishing the *Nebraska Journal of Economics and Business*, an academic publication, Pursell said. It also publishes 30 economic and business research publications, including *Migration Patterns of Young Adults in Nebraska*, *Nebraska Retail Sales, 1968-1975* and *Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production in Nebraska*, he said.

Pursell said a "very important secondary role" of the bureau is the training of UNL graduate and undergraduate students. Currently five graduates and five undergraduates are working for the bureau, doing work ranging from compiling, maintaining and checking data to designing and analyzing data and computer programs, he said.

The bureau does not offer classes, Pursell said, but students in the business college use the bureau's library. Internships for students may be established in the future, he said.

Pursell, director of the bureau since 1976, said that besides receiving an annual budget of \$190,000 from the university, the bureau gets additional money from contracts for private research and from external grants. He said the bureau now is finishing projects with a hospital in Grand Island and the Nebraska Power Association, among others.

Pursell said information released by the bureau, although possibly helpful to some, isn't as influential as some may think.

"If the information doesn't fit their (the people who pay for bureau research) preconceived notions of how things are, they will ignore it," he said. "It's just as likely the information will be ignored as used."

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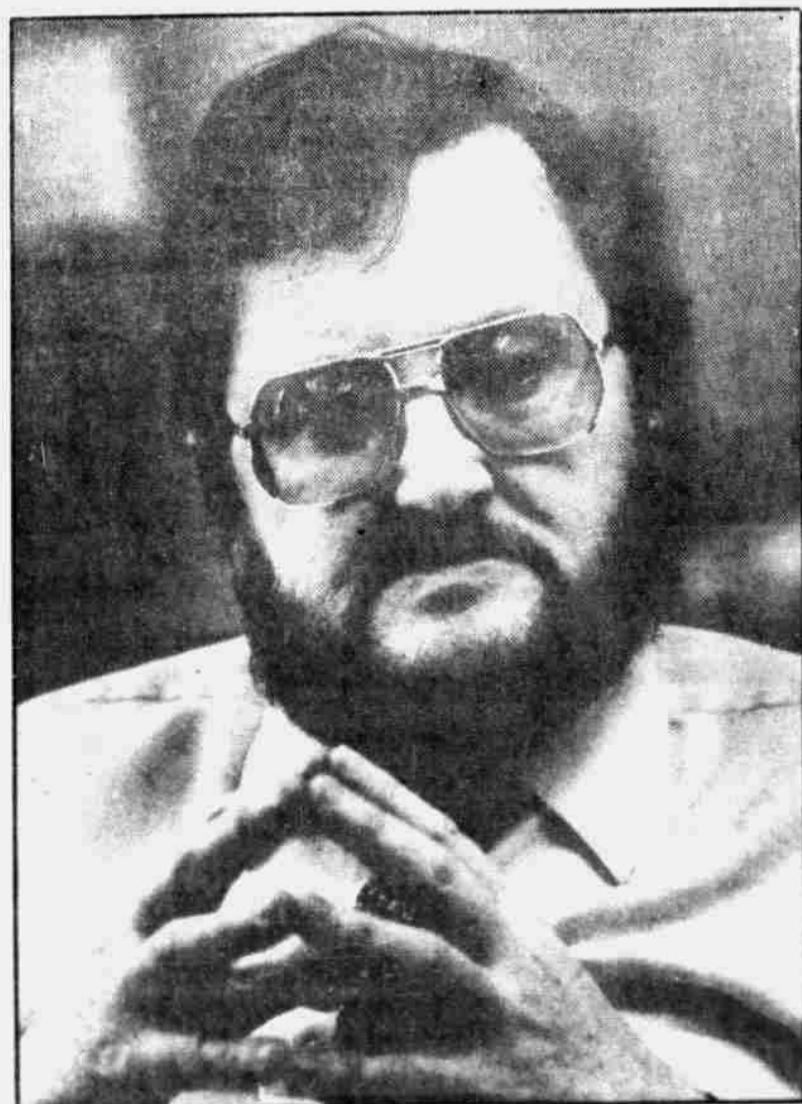


Photo by Dave Bentz

Don Pursell

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