

# Regents still undecided about admissions policy

By Duane Retzlaff

Although the NU Board of Regents voted unanimously at its March 27 meeting to have plans for a stricter admissions policy drawn up for consideration at their May 15 meeting, there seems to be little agreement as to what policy, if any, will be accepted.

"The problem isn't that simple," said Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln, adding that anything as important as admissions to the university should be studied very carefully.

"I don't think we really consulted the NU faculty — they ought to have considerable input," he said, adding that people in the admissions department should also be consulted.

Schwartzkopf said he favors no change in the university's open admissions policy because there has been no evidence to indicate a more selective policy is needed.

"Arbitrary standards (adopted by the university) really don't solve very much, and will not increase the quality of the university," Schwartzkopf said.

Other actions would be more effective, he said, such as trying to reduce the university's attrition rate.

In addition, the quality of high school education needs to be consistent across the state, he said.

Schwartzkopf said the university holds principal-student conferences each year to find which high schools can do better to prepare their students for college.

Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler also favored no change in the current admissions policy.

Everyone should at least be given the opportunity to attend the university, especially since NU, a land-grant institution, is the only university in the state, he said.

"The university has no business telling high schools what they can teach," Wagner said, adding that any changes on the high school level should be made by the high schools themselves.

Wagner suggested that charging more for remedial courses at the university would give high school students the incentive to better prepare for college.

Regent James Moylan of Omaha also stressed an incentive is needed "so we don't have to be teaching remedial courses."

Moylan has prepared admissions standards similar to those at Oklahoma State University: applicants would have to score 17 or 18 on the American College Testing (ACT) Entrance Examination, or be in the top one-third or one-half of their high school class, or have a B or C-plus average.

"If you didn't meet any of these you could take six hours of college courses, and if you maintained a 1.5 or above GPA, then you could become a full-time student," he said.

In addition, Moylan suggested the plan be implemented over a three-year period.

Moylan said he was still open on the admissions issue, and would not make a final decision until he had a chance to review Ronald Roskens' proposal.

Regent John Payne of Kearney was also undecided, but said he was not convinced a change in the admissions policy is needed.

"UNL already has minimum admissions in the separate colleges," he said, adding that the university also has a policy to reduce the attrition rate.

"I haven't been convinced that if a tougher admissions policy was put in, any money would be saved, and that seems to be the reason for the interest shown in changing the policy," he said.

Regent Robert Koeft of Grand Island said he supported the Roskens proposal as opposed to the Moylan plan because it is more effective to prepare students at the high school level than to restrict their entry at the college level.

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff also said he favors the Roskens proposal, although he wants it to go into effect immediately, and a minimum grade point average on the coursework should be required.

UNL Student Regent Dan Wedekind said he favors no change in the admissions policy. He said the regents' concern with the quality of education and the cost of remedial courses are the two main reasons for the interest in the admissions policy.

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