

# Culture Center move awaits CFA vote

By Ward W. Triplett III

After nearly two hours of emotionally charged debate Wednesday, the Nebraska Union Board approved funding for the renovation of Terrace Hall, 420 University Terrace, for a new culture center in its 1983-84 budget request.

The final vote of 6-4 with one abstention came after 95 minutes of discussion. Part of the board favored waiting to see if a new building could be built. Other members favored moving the culture center into Terrace Hall now because of its availability and the unlikely chance that funding for a new building could be raised.

The building at 1012 N. 16th St., which currently houses the Culture Center, was intended to be a temporary site when the center moved in 10 years ago.

A task force to find a new location for the center was organized last spring after the UNL Physical Plant Administration declared the building unfit for renovation. Before that, the building's activities already had outgrown its space.

The task force concluded that the university-owned Terrace Hall, occupied by the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, was the best location for the center. It was also agreed that the center needed to move closer to the campus. The feasibility study was completed during semester

break and the additional cost of operating the Culture Center in Terrace Hall was included in the union's 1983-84 budget request.

The proposal still has to be approved by the Committee for Fees Allocation and the NU Board of Regents. The regents must be petitioned for use of bond funds to renovate the building as well. The estimated cost is \$180,000.

Union Board President Laura Meyer began the meeting by stating her objections to the proposal.

"I'm not trying to say Terrace Hall is not a good option," Meyer said. "But I just want to make sure it is the best option there is."

Meyer said she did not feel that the Union Board had adequate time to study other options, including a new building for the center.

The meeting was attended by several members of the Culture Center Task Force and by students who felt the Terrace Hall option was the only option.

Eugene Tolston, president of the African People's Union, said that group was in favor of moving to Terrace Hall.

"We do not look at it as just a minority center," Tolston said. "The Culture Center has always been for everybody."

The center needs to be closer to the center of campus because its present location discourages students from walk-

ing there, Tolston said.

Board member Pat Meister said his only concern was the residents around the proposed center. "I don't foresee any problems there," Meister said. "But I do believe they should be asked about this."

The area previously has been entirely residential, and as of Tuesday, none of the people living in the three Greek houses and one residence hall had been told the Culture Center was being moved to the area, Meister said.

Wardell Smith, a graduate assistant who manages the Culture Center, said Meister's concern was legitimate, but the decision to move to Terrace Hall was not finalized until December.

The residents' attitudes would probably not have a direct effect on allocations for the center anyway, Smith said.

"I know there might be some concerns," Smith said. "We all have our prejudices. But when I was an undergraduate, I used to walk up 16th Street and I never thought the loud music and actions from the fraternity houses were offending me. Your attitude seems to be if you bring those guys (blacks) into that area, you're going to see something you haven't seen before, and that's not true."

"Putting the Culture Center at Terrace Hall is crucial, because it would make

minority students more visible and would help, not hinder, relationships," Smith said.

Rose Perez, an assistant at the Culture Center and a member of the task force, reminded the board that the Culture Center is open only limited hours on weekdays and for occasional parties on weekends.

"There wouldn't be any problems with noise or anything like that, for the simple reason it will not be open that long," Perez said.

Union director Daryl Swanson said the issue of what the neighbors thought about the center had not come up until two weeks ago, but he could see a point in informing the residents about the decision.

"I'm not going to ask their permission," Swanson said. "I am going to get their understanding, their support, inform them and communicate with them."

Swanson reminded the students that only the regents could make a final decision on the issue and unified opinion had to be established.

"I do not want, in the same gallery, three different factions representing different ideas," Swanson said. "Believe me, that will blow this thing right out of the water."

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Staff photo by Joel Sartore

On her lunch break Thursday, Kathleen Eppens sleeps on a window ledge in the Capitol. "If you want to know why I'm sleeping," Eppens said, "it's because I work in bill drafting and we've all been putting in 80- to 90-hour weeks." Since the long workweeks began in November, about 945 bills have been drafted, she said.

# RESEARCH LIAISON: Proposal links Legislature, UNL on short-term projects

By Mona Koppelman

Prospects for a legislative-UNL research liaison proposed last year are "more hopeful" this session, project sponsor Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said.

Last year the proposed liaison wasn't developed further because of tight budget restraints. This session, Wesely said, early talks with officials in the Kerrey administration and the new Executive Board were encouraging. The university formally endorsed the concept last year, he said.

The proposal calls for a formal working relationship between the Legislature's Research Office and the Great Plains Center's Office of Political Studies. The OPS would locate faculty members with the necessary expertise in the area to be researched. Faculty members would then put together detailed reports and submit the information to the LRO.

"It's not a major request, but it results in major improvements in utilization of faculty and improvement of our own research capabilities," Wesely said.

The proposal states that many "complex and multifaceted areas of policy research" requiring analysis by people with "specialized expertise" currently are carried out by legislative researchers with little technical support.

"We can't totally substitute faculty research for our own research staff," Wesely said. "However, we would get more research for our money with faculty supplementary research than by hiring outside consultants or enlarging the legislative research staff."

For the 1982-83 fiscal year, a total of \$1,392,160 has been set aside by the Legislature for legislative research services.

Wesely met Thursday with Larry Swanson, OPS administrator. Wesely said they discussed the type of approach to the Legislature.

"We're going to be meeting with representatives from the university, the Executive Board, from the Legislature and the executive branch," Wesely said.

Sen. Shirley Marsh, vice chairman of the Executive Board, said she thought the proposal "would be a very positive thing to have happen."

"It would be an important additional tool for researchers at the Legislature," Marsh said.

Rosemary Bergstrom, administrative assistant for the Great Plains Center, said the OPS would serve primarily as a coordinator in locating faculty and resources for legislative research.

"Our main concern would be with short-term projects... one or two months of research," Bergstrom said.

Such research projects would be state-funded. Rates of compensation would be set relative to university salaries of participating faculty, according to the December 1981 proposal.

"It would be a mutually beneficial arrangement, the public would be well-served by it, and the cost factor is minimal," Wesely said. The proposal gives a base figure of \$16,860 to set up the liaison. The funds would come from the legislative research budget.

"It's a new idea in Nebraska, and something new is always more difficult to start," Wesely said.

Several other states, including Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arkansas, have instituted research arrangements between universities and legislative bodies.

"My feeling is that a research liaison would not only help the Legislature, but would also benefit the university," Wesely said. "It would develop a closer relationship between the university and the Legislature. It would also draw public support for tax dollars spent for a very useful purpose."