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Regents plan repair projects

By Vicki Ruhga

The NU Board of Regents will consider how to spend \$408,730 to renovate UNL laboratories and classrooms at its Saturday meeting.

UNL officials are recommending that the work be done in two parts — large lecture halls and individual classrooms. First, large lecture halls that hold more than 100 students would be modernized for better lighting, acoustics and seating in 1984-85. In 1985-86, classrooms and teaching laboratories are scheduled to be modernized.

The regents also will talk about how to spend \$225,000, which is left over from the \$1.6 million reallocation and reserve fund for the university

system. The money was set aside in June for "high priority needs and unforeseen circumstances."

NU administrators are recommending that \$115,000 of the money be divided between the UNL Barkley Center for speech and hearing disorders and the pre-engineering program at UNO.

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources would get \$32,000 for an automated weather data network; \$42,000 would be spent for academic computing at the NU Medical Center in Omaha; and \$36,000 would be used to pay part-time faculty for the computer science, business administration and criminal justice department.

As part of the third phase of remodeling at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute in Omaha, the

regents will consider how to spend \$1 million allocated for renovation of inpatient areas.

The board will be asked to approve a Need Statement for a university-wide administrative computing system.

The Need Statement would support a \$1 million request to buy new equipment to replace the IBM 370/158 computer and disk subsystem currently used in the UNL main data center.

The regents also will discuss proposed revisions in the university's five-year plan, which was originally adopted in 1980 and is revised annually.

The regents have scheduled committee meetings, beginning Saturday at 8 a.m. at Regents Hall, 3835 Holdrege St.

UNL carolers share simple country spirit

Analysis by Christopher Barbach

No horse hooves stomped in front of sleighs, nor did fire crackle amidst hoarse neighs; not a horn nor silo was in sight on this Yule season night.

Brick buildings girded the little meadow striped with concrete walls beneath electric street lamps, whose glimmers faded off more distant star lights.

Yet, a brave little bunch nudged like cattle who turn their backs to a storm found the spirit of a country Christmas in East Campus' Cornucopia meadow Wednesday night.

The "carolers" were members of the Student Program Council team. Their tracks and wild gales danced out of breath fog to frolic in the cold. At the first strains of "Deck the Halls," green, orange, blue, red and yellow electric candles were lit and flickered on the boughs of a 25-foot pine.

Cold carolers did don't piles and two-steps on ice-laced snow to warm numb limbs.

After the tree lighting, the troops moved indoors for hot apple cider and cookies. Chatter and laughter floated about amidst white snow on the East Union lobby. A few more people and a few more perhaps would have warmed the more modern building into a holiday spirit. The carolers' spirit was warm and bright.



Retention study examines why students leave school

By Judi Nygren

The importance of personal contact between advisers, faculty, student assistants or residence directors and UNL students planning to quit college is the focal point of the Student Retention Project staff members' recommendations submitted to the chancellor's office Nov. 21.

The recommendations are designed to encourage students to talk with advisers or instructors before making a final decision about withdrawing from school, said Robert Patterson, director of the project.

"If a student gets down about classes or living conditions," he said, "personal contact with someone can sometimes change his perspective and outlook."

According to the report, the project grew out of the Chancellor's Task Force's recommendations for improving student retention. UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale started the project in September to conduct studies relating to student satisfaction at UNL and to make recommendations for improving student and academic support services.

Patterson said the staff's studies attempt to discover why students leave UNL and how student/academic support systems like academic advising and Health Center services can be improved.

By improving support systems, the staff hopes to improve the retention of first-time entering freshman from 73 percent to 78 percent during the next three years, the report said.

The staff recommended having information available at the admissions office guiding students to counseling centers, advisers and other support services, Patterson said. If a student still wants to quit school after talking with someone, Patterson said the staff recommends the student fill out an exit interview explaining why he is leaving.

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