

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Partly sunny today, with a high of 32 (0C). Cloudy and warm tonight with a low of 17 (-8C). This weekend, mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain Saturday and a high of 38 (3C). Sunday's high in the lower 30s (0C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

Cager berth hangs by a thread...Page 5

Something different at the movies...Page 6

'Super Board' concept gets opposition from board, group members

By Brad Gifford
Senior Reporter

Placing state colleges, community colleges and the UN system under one governing body is like trying to insert a three-pronged plug into an electrical outlet with only two slots. And even if one prong is cut off, or a two-pronged adapter is used, plugging those institutions into one board could overload its members.

That's what members of each sector's governing board told the Legislature's Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee Thursday. The committee heard testimony on three resolutions, which could become constitutional amendments on the November 1986 general election ballot, that proposes major changes in postsecondary education governance.

LR32 would change the NU Board of Regents from an elected board to a body appointed by the governor.

LR36 would add state colleges to the Board of Regents' domain. The board would initially consist of 13 members — five appointed by the governor. In 1993, the board would shrink to nine members, with five still appointed.

LR38 would be the most "super" super board, governing state colleges, technical schools and the UN System. Specifics, like board size, method of selection, powers and name, will be left for the Legislature to decide.

Each board's attending members testified against the super board concept, although the Board of Regents is split 4-4 on LR36, according to John Payne, board chairman.

The four regents who support LR36, do so only conditionally, Payne said. Although he said he opposes the resolution, Payne said LR36 "could be worth considering" if amended. He offered a modification that would allow the governor to appoint three members to the board, one from each congressional district. Six other members would be elected, with two coming from each congressional district.

Payne said the board opposes LR38 because it is too broad. He said he is personally skeptical that any super board would improve education in Nebraska.

"Merging different systems creates problems," he said. "These differences cannot be ignored, nor can they be vanished by mandate."

Thomas Johnston, executive director of the Nebraska Community Colleges Association, pointed out the most glaring differences.

Johnston said community colleges

specialize in technical training and academic preparation for students heading for four-year colleges. They also provide a community service by offering high school equivalency and adult literacy programs. People who want further job training or re-training for another occupation depend on these schools, Johnston said.

Consequently, community college students need a governing board that is "responsive to local needs, concerns, and constituents," he said.

Carol Thompson, chairman of the State College Board of Trustees, said that if the system is not broken, don't fix it.

"There's no evidence that a super board would improve higher education in Nebraska," he said.

Two representatives of student organizations said that both proposed super boards would squelch student input.

Andy Carothers of ASUN and Debra Chapelle of the Nebraska State Student Association testified against the concept, but said if senators intend to advance a super board measure, an amendment increasing student representation should be attached.

The super board specified by LR36 would govern seven campuses. Sen. David Landis of Lincoln said he was concerned that the board members could not devote enough time to do an adequate job. Thompson estimated that, as chairman, his position on the state college board requires 40 percent of his time.

The Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education recommended the super board and gubernatorial regent appointment in a report that followed a five-month study. Willis Strauss, commission president, and two other commission members said that a consolidated board is economically essential, and appointed regents are the only people who can make today's tough education budget decisions. The report states regents would be immune to political obligations if they were elected.

Regent Nancy Hoch disagreed. "Appointing the Board of Regents would not remove them from politics, only from accountability," Hoch said.

Gov. Bob Kerrey, making a rare committee appearance to testify for LR32, said that the two issues should be considered separately, with LR32 given first consideration.

"The commission has offered an agenda that will be very difficult for an elected board to handle," he said.



Klanderud, left, Johnston and Baier.

Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

SCUM announces bid Candidates to use apathetic approach

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Reporter

The SCUM Party announced its candidacy for ASUN Thursday and said the key to winning the March 13 election is to take the same approach UNL students take toward ASUN — the "we don't care" approach.

Presidential candidate for the Student Coalition to Undermine Morality, Jon Johnston, a fifth-year undeclared senior, said the purpose of elected representative government is to follow the wishes of the electorate.

"This holds true for the United States Congress and for the ASUN government," Johnston said.

"When this principle of representative government is ignored, the people who are served by the government suffer."

Kurt Klanderud, first vice-presidential candidate, said ASUN governments in recent years "have not reflected the wishes of the student body which they have served."

Klanderud is a fifth-year senior majoring in architecture and construction management.

"It is becoming apparent that the candidates for ASUN offices

this year intend to continue this wicked trend," he said. "These well-meaning individuals are making a fatal mistake in assuming that UNL students really care about all the things they promise and supposedly accomplish."

Jeff Baier, SCUM's second vice-presidential candidate, agrees.

"Let's face it. UNL students don't care about ASUN and its functions," he said.

Baier, a senior life sciences major, said past elections have attracted 10 percent of the UNL student body, which, he said, means 90 percent of UNL students don't care about ASUN.

"ASUN governments continue to waste their time and effort and our money pursuing objectives which they assume students care about," he said.

Johnston said SCUM is not attempting to put down UNL students but rather agree with them.

"That's why we're running for office," he said.

Klanderud said that since they "don't care," they won't follow the rules.

"We're running a write-in

campaign so we don't have to collect signatures to get on the ballot," he said. "We're going to put posters in places you've never dreamed of, and come election week this campus is going to see enough illegal campaign maneuvers to last the election commission a lifetime."

Baier said "We don't want to abolish ASUN, we simply want to wreak havoc with the institution and the election process."

Johnston said he thinks SCUM can win the election.

"If we get only five percent of those students to write our names in on election day, we can win this election," he said. "The results may be invalidated, but our point will be made."

Johnston said SCUM is developing a list of policies which it intends to pursue if elected. The party will schedule a press conference when the list is complete, he said.

The three candidates refused to answer any questions after the announcement because their statement of candidacy "speaks for itself," they said.

"A vote for SCUM is a vote for apathy," Johnston said.

Chancellor says UNL a resource that benefits state

By Jonathan Taylor
Staff Reporter

Calling UNL "the state's principal resource for advancing scientific and humanistic knowledge," NU Chancellor Martin Massengale spoke Thursday to the Sigma Xi scientific honorary society on "The Role of Science and Research in Nebraska."

Massengale said UNL is a place where "a wide variety of intellectual resources, both human and material" are available to students, institutions and the public. This factor makes the university the state's primary resource



Massengale File Photo

for social, economic and cultural development, he said.

UNL can continue this service for the state, Massengale said, because it is "a community of scholars both dedicated to the search for truth and to the service of their fellow men."

The chancellor praised the Sigma Xi members as "the university's greatest resources . . . whose knowledge, skills and dedication . . . not only hold promise for the future of this state, but for all mankind."

Agricultural research, however, is not the only form of research the university supports that benefits

Nebraskans, Massengale said. Massengale quoted from an update of the university's five-year plan entitled "Toward Excellence II." He said research should be emphasized that pertains to "efforts to meet the problems of world shortages of energy, necessities for conserving and recycling natural resources and problems of the changing patterns of society . . . in the areas of transportation and housing."

Our nation is "woefully unprepared" to deal with those problems, Massengale said.

Because universities have traditionally served as "repositories for

knowledge and centers for the creation of new knowledge," Massengale said, state governments across the nation have started to increase support of university-based research for technological development.

Massengale cited Gov. Bob Kerrey's task force on communication and information systems technology assertion for the need of an "advanced research center for high-tech manufacturing." He said the task force regarded UNL as a major resource "for developing Nebraska into a world class center in several emerging areas of communications and information systems."