

# Daily Nebraskan

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**Weather:** Today, expect a high of 55 (13C), but turning colder late in the day. Tonight, fair with a low of 26 (-3C). Partly cloudy and not as warm Friday with a high of 49 (9C). Warm this weekend!  
Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

**Think spring, fling that is...The Mag**

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## Professors agree — all students need liberal arts classes

By Gene Gentrup  
Senior Reporter

Liberal arts courses are necessary and should be required of all college students through a structured core curriculum, according to six panelists who spoke on liberal arts education Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.

The idea of a core curriculum, a strongly debated topic the last few months, was supported by the panelists. But none knew how it should be structured.

"Who should decide the specifics?" asked UNL political science department chairwoman Susan Welch.

Welch said that deciding which courses should be required and who should teach them could be a big problem.

"You will have to change the ways of rewarding faculty," she said. "Some will be asked to do more, and if you want them to maintain their quality teaching and have them commit themselves, you're going to have reward them."

Welch was joined by Phillip Hugly, professor of philosophy; James McShane, associate professor of English; Larry Lusk, professor of music; Douglas Gale, director of the Computing Resource Center; and Janet Krause, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

McShane, who served as moderator, said liberal education "allows us to understand issues of our common humanity." Students should move away

from specialization and include a broader amount of liberal arts, McShane said.

Gale said the UNL curriculum at one time "reached where students got to take whatever they wanted."

"We did them a disservice then," Gale said.

Lusk said liberal arts courses do more than help students in their majors.

"Skills learned in liberal arts courses help people learn how to assault problems creatively, help them learn from the past and shape their future," Lusk said.

Lusk said he thought that most students listening to the discussion would change jobs at least two or three times. A broad range of liberal arts skills would increase their chances for a good paying job, he said.

"What we ought to be doing is interesting things and not putting things into small packages," he said.

To meet the need for liberal arts courses, Lusk said, he "wouldn't mind" seeing more students going to college longer than the traditional four years.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean G.G. Meisels, who was not on the panel but was in the audience answered a request by McShane to give his ideas on the liberal arts curriculum.

"In liberal arts you learn not only what is taught in class, but you learn how to think," he said. "There's more to education than training. There is a state of mind."



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

While NU President Roskens, left, fields questions, Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln naps during a committee hearing on UNL's budget.

## NU officials, faculty defend university budget requests

By Brad Gifford  
Senior Reporter

Wednesday's NU budget hearing was moved from the state capitol's Room 1003 to a second floor court room.

The new location proved appropriate as university officials defended their budget requests before a formidable assembly — a spending-conscious Appropriations Committee faced with limited revenue and numerous budgetary demands.

NU President Ronald Roskens said UNL's greatest demand is that faculty salaries be raised to a level comparable to peer institutions. UNL is currently in the second year of a three-year legislative program designed to make teachers' salaries more competitive.

"The key is being competitive," said Norman Thorson, UNL Faculty Senate president. Thorson said if the salary program is properly financed the third and last year, faculty pay will reach near the midpoint of similar institutions.

"We'd all like to do better," Thorson said. "For the moment, we'd settle for getting equal."

At the onset of the hearing, chairman Jerome Warner of Waverly told the officials that some current programs have been excluded from

most agencies' initial budgets. Expansion, he said, is almost unmentionable.

The second and third priorities both require expanded expenditures. Roskens said university libraries need additional money to keep pace with the growing information pools.

UNL also must have more and better computers in both academic and administrative areas, Roskens said. He asked the senators for a \$3.5 million outlay for computer equipment and \$1.5 million for their operation.

"We believe that our request is reasonable and justifiable," he said.

UNL has done its part to streamline programs to the bare minimum, he said. The university has trimmed or redistributed \$12.5 million this year, according to Roskens' figures. The state must do its part now, he said, if senators are serious about reviving Nebraska's economy.

"Do we believe we will be successful without a strong, vigorous, progressive state university?" he asked the committee.

Roskens said the committee should realize that some money that appears in the university budget actually provides no economic gain to the university and should be considered separate from the budget.

To attract gifted scholars, UNL

pays the tuition of visiting graduate students. When UNL students travel to other states for instruction not offered at UNL, the students pay only resident tuition to the other school. The state pays those schools the difference between resident and non-resident tuition.

"We have become the vehicle through which those funds flow," Roskens said, "but we receive no economic benefit from that money."

Nebraska gets the most for its money from the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, said Beth Klosterman, commission member.

The four commission members receive an average salary that ranks above only commissioners in Delaware and New Hampshire, Klosterman said. Three years ago six people served on the commission. Every possible program reduction has already been made, she said.

The commission could save the state money by coordinating program reviews that are in progress at most colleges and universities, she said. The Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education recommended that NU and state colleges merge to accomplish program reviews.

Klosterman said the commission could do the job for less money.

## Renovation bill set aside

By Brad Gifford  
Senior Reporter

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, who introduced a bill to renovate Morrill Hall, said Wednesday he is willing to delay the project for one year.

Testifying in favor of LB169 at an Appropriations Committee hearing, Wesely said the state's tight budget probably will not be able to absorb the project's cost this year.

The bill calls for \$4.25 million to be paid over a three-year period to the University of Nebraska State Museum. A majority of that money would be spent on a climate control system for the building.

Wesely doesn't want the senators to sweep the issue under the rug, however.

"Put it off one year, but place the issue in statute so that people know what we intend to do," he said.

John Janovy, interim director of the museum, said humidity fluctuations are taking their toll on irreplaceable exhibits.

Janovy brought to hearing an owl exhibit donated to the museum in 1937.

To many of the observers, the owl appeared to be in good condition. But Janovy noted that the unstable environment has caused a number of defects that will worsen.

Janovy invited committee members to tour the museum next week so that he can show them the damage on other exhibits as well as the wonders of the museum.

He said he hopes to change more than their minds.

"Morrill Hall can in an afternoon change your impression of the world," he said.

Betty Anderson of the Friends of the Museum said last year more than 18,000 students in 522 classes from 56 counties visited the museum. That's important, she said, because Nebraska teacher's colleges do not require graduates to have a strong science education background.

## Reagan vetoes farm bill; O'Neill doubts override

The Easter News Report

WASHINGTON — Saying the government cannot "bail out every farmer hopelessly in debt," President Reagan on Wednesday vetoed an emergency measure on farm aid that would have provided immediate cash relief to debt-ridden U.S. farmers in time for spring planting.

Congress can attempt to enact the aid bill over Reagan's veto, but Democratic Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill said it would not do so.

"I don't see any sense in it (an override effort)," O'Neill told reporters. "We know we can't override it in the Senate."

Legislation can be enacted into law despite a veto if it is approved by a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate. But the Senate passed the vetoed bill by only a 50-to-48 vote margin.

The provision, approved by both the Senate and the House, was attached to a bill authorizing \$175 million in disaster and refugee aid to drought-stricken African countries.

In a live, televised statement from the White House, Reagan said he was vetoing the measure because "the government could not bail out every farmer hopelessly in debt."

The measure would have provided \$1.55 billion in federal farm loan guarantees to help farmers finance their spring planting and restructure their debts.

Reagan said his administration's current aid program was adequate.

"Some of our farmers are facing severe financial problems. They were the results of generations of failed policies that drove down farm prices, drove down the cost of their land, seed and equipment," he said.

Runaway inflation, interest rates and the grain embargo imposed by former President Carter after Soviet intervention in Afghanistan increased their troubles, he added.

"They deserve our sympathy and our support."

He denied that the federal government was shirking its responsibility, pointing out that this year under plans he had approved the federal government would make nearly \$4.5 billion in credit available to farmers.

"We've done a great deal to help farmers but I have warned repeatedly that just as families don't have a blank check of whatever their needs may be, neither can government, and that means the taxpayers bail out every farmer hopelessly in debt or every bank which made imprudent or speculative loans," Reagan said.

The president said Congress had failed to show the courage necessary to help him reduce huge federal deficits by submitting as its first major bill one that "proved a majority incapable of resisting the tax and spend philosophy that brought America to its knees and wrecked our economy."

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