

# UNO senate may impeach student regent

By Deb Pederson  
Senior Reporter

UNO student president/regent Mike DeBolt may be impeached if some charges against him prove to be true, UNO student senate speaker Pete Adler said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

Student senator John Spethman submitted the impeachment resolution to the June 13 meeting of the senate, saying that DeBolt failed to carry out the duties of his office.

The senate voted 8-7 to postpone the resolution until the July 11 meeting of the senate so that the charges could be investigated, Adler said.

"The senate is checking things out," Adler said. "If the allegations are substantiated, he will be impeached. If not, then he will either be reprimanded or be cleared."

*"It's just a constant ongoing thing."*

UNL student president/regent Gerard Keating said UNO students should take a good strong look at DeBolt's record and judge from that.

Some of the charges include inaccessibility, absence at NU Regents and student senate meetings, poor reporting to the senate and political differences, Adler said.

"He hasn't done some gross misuse of power," Adler said. "It's just a constant ongoing thing."

DeBolt has not kept his office hours and has missed half of the senate meetings, Adler said. DeBolt isn't required to attend senate meetings but he must

give a report, either in person or written. But the senate has received neither written or firsthand reports, he said. DeBolt has reported to the senate on only two out of six regents meetings.

DeBolt also hasn't maintained adequate communications with the administration, the student newspaper and other organizations, Adler said.

"A person I know in administration told me he just saw Mike for the first time in three months," Adler said. "Mike should have been seeing this person at least once every two weeks."

At the regents' June 8 meeting, DeBolt said he supported a tuition surcharge and the central pooling of the money from the surcharge rather than each campus keeping its own monies.

Adler said he did not know of a single student on the UNO campus that supported either measure.

In another case, DeBolt was present for the regents hearing on student funds but left the main meeting to attend cheerleading tryouts at UNO, Adler said.

DeBolt also missed spring graduation, he said. DeBolt, who was married that day, claimed that he did not know when graduation was when he set the wedding date in December, Adler said. But student senators feel that DeBolt could have found out the graduation date, Adler said.

"Basically he has his priorities backward," Adler said. "He's admitted it indirectly. He won't admit it directly,

but neither would I in his position."

A vote of 18 of the 27 student senators is needed to impeach DeBolt, he said. If the senate votes to impeach him, the case would be taken before the five-member Student Court, where a 3 vote majority would make the

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impeachment effective. In that case, the senate speaker would assume office for a maximum of 40 days until a new election is held. The winner of that election would finish DeBolt's term until the regular election in October, he said.

If that happens, Adler said he wouldn't assume the office because he is moving to Dallas in three weeks.

If DeBolt isn't impeached, he may be reprimanded or cleared of the charges, he said.

"The student senate acts as individuals, not really as a group," Adler said. "They say they have these principles but when Mike's there, they back down. In other words, they don't have the guts to go through with it."

Adler said he didn't know what the senate would do but if a few charges still being investigated are substan-

tiated, DeBolt will probably be impeached.

The UNO student president/regent position is mainly a figurehead position, lacking even ex-officio status on the senate, Adler said. The president basically serves as a representative at regent meetings, provides information to the senate and student body and acts as a communications link. The student president/regent runs by himself on the ticket, he said.

DeBolt's election as student president/regent was clouded with doubt when he was charged with and found guilty of two campaign abuses during a runoff election in October, Adler said. DeBolt was fined the maximum of \$50 for illegal poster sizes and slanderous campaign tactics.

"He won the runoff by 100 votes," Adler said. "I bet about 125 votes were from the illegal stuff."

Adler did say DeBolt has made more of an effort since the senate's June 13 meeting.

Attempts have been made in the past to impeach other UNO student

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president/regents. The only successful removal occurred in 1976 when student president Steve Showers was found guilty of an unauthorized entry into the Secondary Education Department files.

The student senate's meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 6 p.m. in the UNO student center. The meeting is open to the public.

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## Police Report

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 8:33 a.m. Monday and 11:20 p.m. Wednesday.

### Monday

8:33 a.m. — Traffic accident reported at 17th and Vine streets. No injuries were reported.

### Tuesday

8:45 a.m. — Person arrested while allegedly trying to steal a license plate from a vehicle at Whitehead Oil Company, 2537 Randolph St.

9:16 a.m. — Vandalism to an emergency telephone reported near Memorial Stadium.

9:30 a.m. — Items reported stolen from Plant Science Hall.

4:14 p.m. — Bicycle reported stolen from the Harper-Schramm-Smith Courtyard.

12:36 a.m. — Window reported broken at Harper Hall.

8:18 a.m. — Window reported broken at Nebraska Hall.

10:30 a.m. — Traffic accident reported in Parking Area 12. No injuries were reported.

1:48 p.m. — Purse reported stolen from the Coliseum.

2:16 p.m. — Fire alarm reported sounding at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center on East Campus.

3:03 p.m. — Billfold reported stolen from Love Library.

4:10 p.m. — Parts reported stolen from a vehicle in Parking Area 3 near Harper Hall.

9:40 p.m. — Billfold reported stolen from Sandoz Hall.

11:20 p.m. — Two people arrested on charges of vandalism for allegedly breaking the windows at Harper Hall and Nebraska Hall.

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