

WEATHER: Thursday, sunny and warmer. High in the 70s. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Mostly clear Thursday night with the low in the upper 30s. Mostly sunny and warm Friday. High in the lower to mid-70s.

Daily Nebraskan

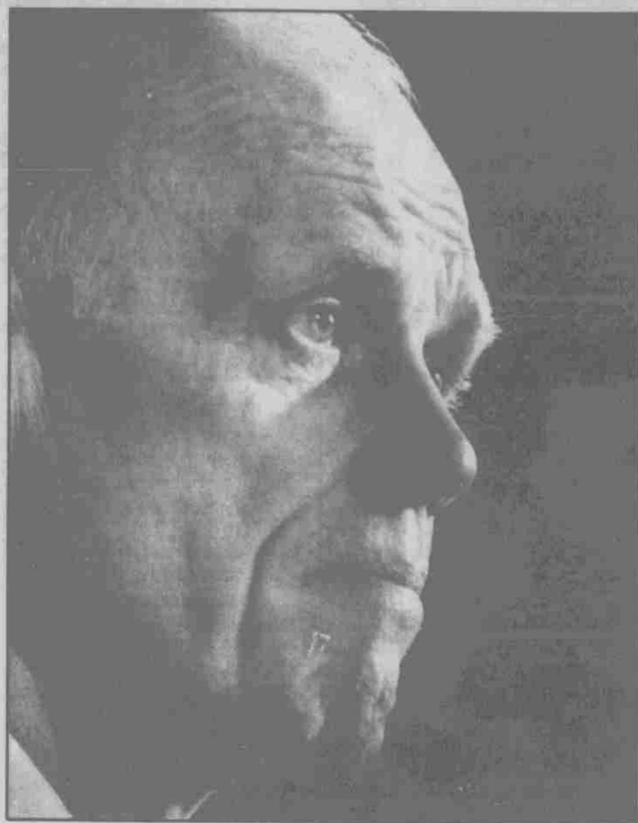
Inside:

News Digest Page 2
Editorial Page 4
Sports Page 14
Diversions Page 5
Calendar Page 13
Classified Page 14

March 5, 1987

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 86 No. 116



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Roskens

NU officials request aid for campus library

By Michael Hooper
Senior Reporter

At a legislative budget hearing Wednesday, NU officials asked for more support for university library systems, recommended the closing of the Lincoln Division of the College of Nursing and, recommended, if necessary, a tuition increase to preserve the quality of NU programs.

While university officials were divided over the tuition increase, they seemed to agree on the closing of the Lincoln Division of the College of Nursing and on the need for more support for the university library systems.

Regent Margaret Robinson noted the need for automation in libraries and information system.

"If faculty are the heart of a university, the library in a very real sense is its soul," Robinson said.

Cutting the Lincoln Division of the College of Nursing would help make up for the \$3.1 million budget cut the Legislature made during the December special session, NU President Ronald Roskens has said.

Since the three NU nursing programs have had to compete against other medical center campus programs, UNMC chancellor Charles Andrews recommended the closure of the Lincoln division. In addition, Andrews said UNMC could possibly use the Lincoln division's resources to finance its nursing program in Scottsbluff.

If the Lincoln Division were closed, Andrews said he would consult with the dean and notify the students accepted in the program to give them the opportunity to enroll in UNMC's nursing program. He said he also would try to bring the Lincoln faculty to Omaha.

To keep other programs healthy, Roskens said, "we are willing in these difficult times to consider a tuition increase in order to preserve the quality of our programs and to meet additional vital needs."

But, UNL Chancellor Martin Mas-

sengale said students cannot afford a tuition increase. At UNL, he said, tuition for an undergraduate Nebraska resident has increased 65.1 percent since the 1980-81 academic year. The increase at UNO was 57 percent and tuition for a first-year Nebraska resident medical student at UNMC has increased 144.5 percent.

"I believe that we cannot continue to ask our students to shoulder a disproportionate share of the costs of their education," Massengale said.

NU officials also asked that the Legislature appropriate its general fund request of \$177.6 million without earmarking where the funds would go. Roskens said that if the Legislature appropriates the funds in one single sum, the NU Board of Regents and administration would have flexibility to place the funds where they are most critically needed.

Gov. Kay Orr has recommended a \$167.2 million budget for fiscal 1987-88, and the Appropriations Committee has placed \$161.5 million in its preliminary budget requests for the university.

Massengale said that at UNL there are 10.3 faculty to one executive administrator, which is low compared to the ratio at Iowa State — 2.97 faculty to one administrator.

Sen. Sandy Scofield of Chadron, an Appropriations Committee member said that she "was encouraged," to hear the ratio of 10.3 faculty to one administrator. She said that was a fair ratio.

Allen Blezek, UNL's Faculty, Senate president, who was representing the faculty senators from UNO and UNMC, said faculty members are leaving the university because of low salaries, inadequate facilities and equipment and job insecurity.

"Faculty are saying, 'Will my department, division or college be next to be considered for elimination?'" Blezek said.

Roskens said he supported elim-

See HEARING on 3

ASUN Senate cuts NSSA funds

By Merry Hayes
Staff Reporter

The ASUN Senate Wednesday voted to cut funds entirely for the Nebraska State Student Association and to expand the budget of the Government Liaison Committee in a bill appropriating student fees to fee users.

Sen. Paul Reynolds said NSSA, which lobbies on behalf of state colleges and the University of Nebraska, "has not and does not have any chance in best serving our needs."

ASUN President Chris Scudder said in recent lobbying efforts for the student regent vote, the recreation center and the university's budget, NSSA was not needed.

She said the lobbying efforts for UNL should come from UNL's campus and not NSSA. She said NSSA can't effectively represent both state colleges and the university because the two bodies have different interests.

She said paid lobbyists are never as effective as students who lobby at the Legislature on their own time.

Sen. Doug Weems said he talked to an aide of State Sen. Dave Landis who said if UNL pulled out of NSSA, "probably nobody would notice."

Sen. Camile Castellano encouraged the senate to compromise by upholding the Committee for Fees Allocation's recommendation of increasing GLC's budget and giving NSSA a one-year probation period.

Steve Linenberger, the new NSSA director, told the senate, "all I want is one damn year."

Despite poor pay, equipment, engineering morale is high

By Colleen Kenney
Staff Reporter

UNL's College of Engineering and Technology balances on a fulcrum. On one side are underpaid faculty members, aging equipment and inadequate budget allocations; on the other, prestigious faculty members, increased private fundings and successful recruiting.

UNL's mission as a land-grant university is the fulcrum: to always provide quality engineering instruction in Nebraska.

Dean Stan Liberty and several faculty members and students said the mission is holding steady despite university budget restraints.

"There is no question we are getting stonger all the time," Liberty said.

The engineering college has maintained its quality teaching and research programs, improved recruiting efforts for top high-school students and doubled private funding in the last six years, he said.

"If our image went, we wouldn't be able to do it," Liberty said.

But the college is about three years behind the schedule Liberty had in mind in 1981 when he came to UNL. The reason: inadequate state funding. The college's teaching and researching aspects, which have kept it in the top one-third of engineering colleges nationwide, are threatened by budget constraints that are not keeping pace with the need for state-of-the-art technology and adequately paid instructors, Liberty said.

For example, budget restraints have forced the agricultural engineering department on East Campus to do without a robotic machine and a Texas Instrument computer system, said Bill Splinter, department head. The robotic equipment broke down five years ago and the computer system broke down two years ago, Splinter said.

Agricultural engineering, like other departments, has not been able to pay for contract maintenance for its equipment because funding is "extremely limited," he said.

"If something goes wrong, we just have to abandon it," he said.

But overall, engineering has not suffered as much as other UNL colleges, Liberty said.

Through private funds and research grants, the college has become somewhat self-supporting and is better able to cushion its programs from budget reductions, he said. The regents like to see that, he said.

"We're not apt to come on the chopping block because of the fact that today technology is the driving force of the economy," Liberty said. "If Nebraska is going to improve its economic situation, it needs the educational base of a strong engineering program."

Last year, the college's state-sup-

ported allocation of \$5 million was cut by \$30,000. The cut was a "very small" percentage of what other UNL colleges were cut, Liberty said, but still reduced the college's flexibility.

Although the college is seeing "a richness of activity" now in the area of faculty research and publication, the college needs about three more faculty members in electrical engineering to cope with enrollment stress, Liberty said. There are 91 faculty members now.

Liberty said stress from high enrollments and limited resources forced the college to restrict the number of students admitted. The restrictions began in 1983 when there were 2,523 engineering students; this year there are 1,666 students.

STATE OF THE COLLEGE REPORTS

The college's largest department, electrical engineering, went from 491 students in 1983 to 448 this year. The department has 20 faculty members. Mechanical engineering, the second-largest department, went from 361 students to 276. Mechanical engineering has 17 faculty members.

Other engineering degree programs are in the departments of chemical engineering, civil engineering, industrial engineering and computer science. There is also a graduate program and the School of Technology at UNO. Although restrictions have cut total enrollment in these departments, the academic potential of the students increased, Associate Dean Morris Schneider said.

The average composite ACT score of entering freshmen increased from 26.2 to 27.2, Schneider said.

Liberty said 20 percent of freshmen engineering students now have an ACT score higher than 30.

Liberty said college has been able to attract top Nebraska high-school graduates through privately funded scholarships, including the \$1 million Walter Scott, Jr. Scholarship, which awards six or seven incoming freshmen \$3,000 a year.

Matt Langemeier, an electrical engineering junior, received the Scott scholarship in 1984. Langemeier said he had considered several engineering schools besides UNL, but the scholarship offer "clinched it."

Langemeier said the college has good laboratories and teachers and a "solid" curriculum.

"I don't really know if there are many weaknesses except for lack of funding," he said.

But while state dollar support for the college has been "inadequate," Liberty said, alumni contributions and other private-sector donations have doubled since 1981, adding \$2.5 million to the college's base budget of about \$5.5 million.

Liberty said updating equipment, strengthening the graduate program and funding faculty research projects are priorities for any extra money. An engineering college's prestige is based on published faculty research and its graduate program, he said.

Unlike other UNL colleges, Liberty said, private funds have supported engineering faculty travel.

"Our faculty is able to research, publish and go out to speak about what they are doing," he said. "All this is exposing our research capabilities to the rest of the world."

The result of the publicity is evident, Liberty said. Despite relatively low salaries, the college is "finding it easy" to hire successful engineering teachers at a time when other engineering colleges struggle, he said.

Last year's salaries for the college's 51 professors and 51 associate professors averaged \$40,361, which was \$3,578 below the \$43,939 national average, statistics indicate. Despite the lower salaries, Liberty said many engineer professors are attracted to UNL because of its research emphasis.

Since 1981, nearly one-third of the current faculty members, one department chairman and an associate dean (Schneider) have been hired. Last year the college was fully staffed for the first time in 15 years, Liberty said.

"Anytime you have that quantity of personnel come in, that changes things quite a bit," he said.

The graduate program is improving, Liberty said, mostly because more scholarship money is given to graduate students. Liberty said the number of full-time graduate students has doubled during the last six years. This year there are 301 full- and part-time graduate students.

Liberty said student and faculty morale is high despite "very weak" state support for the college.

"Our resources for instruction and research are very inadequate," he said. "A college of this size should plan on a half a million dollars a year as a minimum for the replacement of equipment. I would say we probably hit only \$250,000 a year."

Splinter said agricultural engineering's effectiveness has been lowered by limited funding. Several years ago, Splinter said, the ag-engineering department was in the top 10 percent of similar departments nationwide but now is just in the top one-third.

Since the 1984 renovation of L. W. Chase Hall, which houses ag engineering, the department has been unable

See ENGINEERING on 3