

Students, administrators praise profs at first Faculty Appreciation Day

By Brandon Loomis
Staff Reporter

About 100 students and administrators showed their support for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty before Saturday's football game at UNL's first Faculty Appreciation Day.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the Residence Hall Association sponsored the rally on Union Plaza. The groups gave away blue balloons, rather than the traditional red, to show that students are not only fans of football, but of academics.

Athletic Director Bob Devaney told the crowd that a good faculty is important to the working relationship with the athletic department. The UNL faculty is among the best in the country, he said, but many teachers are leaving because of low salaries.

"These people that contribute so much are the lowest-paid faculty in the Big Eight," he said.

Devaney praised ASUN for its recent bill requesting a tuition increase to increase faculty salaries, and said it's now up to the Legislature to provide additional financing.

"Let's all get behind this drive to keep them here," Devaney said.

Margaret Robinson, chairperson of the NU Board of Regents, told a story about an early Chinese philosopher who said that while someone can make a difference for a year by planting rice, one must educate in order to affect the world for 100 years.

"That's as true today as it was thousands of years ago," she said.

Robinson also saluted students for their willingness to make sacrifices in order to keep a quality faculty. She said the faculty is important to the university and the entire state.

"Faculty salaries have to go up this year,"

she said.

Andy Jacobitz, Barbara Meister and Patricia Sokolik, recipients of the Outstanding Student Leadership Award, honored individual members of the faculty at the rally.

Jacobitz said David McGill, professor of agronomy, makes going to class fun. McGill has made the faculty strong through his long-standing support, Jacobitz said.

"I've had more than one alumnus say that the reason they stayed here for undergraduate school was Dr. McGill," he said.

Meister opposed ASUN's tuition-raising bill because many of her friends are already unable to pay for school. Increased tuition, along with increased student fees to finance the football team's indoor practice field, will drive many students into the work force without degrees, she said.

"I cannot wear Husker red today," she said, because people are beginning to stress football over education.

"Without a quality faculty," she said, "there can be no quality university."

Meister honored Susan Welch, professor of political science. Welch strives for excellence and helps to make UNL recognized for academic quality, she said.

Sokolik said Eva Winter, associate professor of construction management, sets an example as a career woman. As a faculty adviser, Winter has given guidance and kept students from making mistakes, she said.

Sokolik said Winter has helped her write letters to several companies. Winter also helped start the freshman Foundations courses, she said.

"She took the time to care and did make a difference," Sokolik said.

State Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg, a UNL graduate, said he is grateful to the university's faculty. Moore graduated in a



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney speaks at the convocation celebrating Faculty Appreciation Day Saturday.

high-school class of 10 students. He said he was afraid UNL's faculty would not have enough time for his individual needs. But the faculty did have time for him and helped him make it through, he said.

Moore said ASUN's bill is a good idea and he hopes the Legislature will follow suit.

"I'm not here to give you promises," he said. "But I'm here to say that what you're saying is being heard loud and clear."

Jim Lewis, Faculty Senate president, said

ASUN's bill shows courage and wisdom.

"To be a member of the faculty is to live a life of gentle poverty," he said. Lewis said his job is rewarding because students provide him with energy and show a thirst for knowledge.

ASUN President Andy Pollock said that although Saturday was UNL's first Faculty Appreciation Day, he hopes students will have one each November.

"It is important to recognize the most important group," he said.

Regents award firm contract for med center project

By Shawn Hubbell
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska Board of regents awarded the Nebraska Service and Construction Co. a construction bid Friday afternoon for the renovation of six adult private patient rooms at the NU Medical Center.

During an emergency session held by teleconference, the regents unanimously approved the selection of the

Omaha construction firm, which submitted the low bid of \$274,500 and met all of the conditions of the bidding process.

William Swanson, NU corporation secretary, said the emergency session was needed to approve the low bid as soon as possible so construction on the project could start immediately.

The next regularly scheduled regents meeting is Nov. 20. Swanson said approving the bid at the emer-

gency session would save two weeks construction time.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$450,000 and will be financed through the operating budget of the University Hospital's major capital renovation account. The bid of \$274,500 is for the construction of the six additional adult intensive-care rooms. The remaining \$175,500 will be used for fixed and movable equipment, contingency costs and fees.

The intensive-care unit will be constructed from existing space in the hospital and will consist of the six adult private patient rooms, a nurse's station, two utility rooms, a waiting room, a staff locker room, a conference room and a staff office.

According to a summary of the project, the need for the intensive-care unit was brought on by increased complexity of patients' ailments and

treatments that require private rooms.

Increased use of the current intensive care unit also has been a contributing factor in the addition of the new unit.

The summary of the project indicated that from February to July, use of the intensive care units has increased 18 percent and the length of stays averaged six to eight days, with a trend toward longer stays.



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