

NU administration measures not advanced

By Dan Dwinell

Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee heard testimony Monday on a bill and a resolution that would alter the administration of the University of Nebraska.



Neither measures were advanced from committee and are considered non-priority for this session.

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, Education Committee chairman, introduced a resolution, LR269, to put the University of Nebraska Board of Regents under the direction of the Legislature.

"We would treat the University of Nebraska the same way we treat agencies of the government," he said.

The resolution proposes that the general government of the University of Nebraska will be vested in a board under the direction of the Legislature.

The board would consist of six to eight regents elected from newly organized districts. "The Legislature shall divide the state along

county lines," the resolution states, "into as many compact regent districts as there are regents provided by the Legislature.'

The districts, of about equal population, would be numbered consecutively. The Legislature would redistrict the state after each census or upon the concurrence of a majority of the Legislature.

The resolution also includes three student members serving on the board. The non-voting students would include the student body presidents of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Withem argued that the NU Board of Regents can't handle the pressures of all the topics they face. "I know we as a Legislature deal with pres-

sure on a day-to-day basis," he said.

Kermit Hansen, a regent since 1970, testified against the resolution.

He said the resolution would make the regents a "useless appendage." "The Legislature already has a vast array of

things to deal with and the bill would increase the burden," Hansen said.

Sen. Richard Peterson of Norfolk was concerned with the regents' inability to correct the problem with foreign teachers.

Sen. Arlene Nelson of Grand Island said she has heard six to eight different complaints from students about not being able to understand their teachers.

"Why increase salaries when we're not getting competent teachers?" she asked.

Hansen argued that 80 percent of the students complaining were using that as an excuse for bad grades.

Hansen proposed that the Legislature require the regents, the State College Board of Trustees, and technical college officials to meet twice a year. A report would be presented to Gov. Kay Orr, the Education Committee and the Legislature after each meeting.

Another issue heard by the committee would alter the administration of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The main change proposed by LB1216 is making the vice chancellor of IANR a chancel-

The promotion would give the new chancel-

lor more power, including coordinating agricultural, natural resources and other related matters.

The chancellor of the institute would also advise and counsel NU President Ronald Roskens and the NU Board of Regents.

Sens. George Coordsen of Hebron, Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth and Stan Schellpeper of Stanton sponsored the bill. Coordsen stressed the importance of agri-

culture to Nebraska.

"The impact of agriculture on our economy is forefront," he said. "We must be very careful not to forget what we're good at in Nebraska."

Robert Anderson, president of the Fertilizer Institute of Nebraska, testified in favor of the bill

"Agriculture is the base to every industry in the state," he said. "It's time for agriculture to take a front seat (at UNL).

Robert Gingery, a Lincoln resident, testified neutrally to the committee. Gingery favored a compromise.

We should reserve the title of chancellor for the chief executive officer of the campus,' he said. Gingery favored having a title above vice chancellor, but below chancellor.

UNL group goes to Boston

Nebraska Model U.N. delegate honored at national conference

By Lisa Richardson Staff Reporter

Bradley Walker, member of Nebraska's Model United Nations delegation, received top honors at the Harvard National Model United Nations conference in Boston.

Walker received an outstanding delegate award at the conference, conducted Thursday through Sunday.

About 1,700 delegates went to the conference where awards were given to outstanding delegates from each of its 15 committees. Nebraska's 11member group represented Colombia at the conference.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students John Coffey, Cynamon Fosbinder, Mark Howe, Missy How-ell, Jeff Kluch, LuAnn Krab, David Littlefield, Joe Lutes, Lori Pope, Shawn Schuldies and Walker attended the conference.

Walker, who served on the Politi-

most unanimously by the General Assembly," he said. Walker said the delegation did a

good job representing Colombia's interests. However, he said he didn't think Colombia could force the United States and the Soviet Union to sign a treaty in real life.

The Nebraska students researched Colombia's position on issues by writing to its embassy.

The Harvard conference is the largest in the United States, Walker said, and is very different from Nebraska's.

More than 1,700 people from U.S. and foreign universities attend the conference, and UNL's conference attracts roughly 300 people from high schools and colleges.

Because more delegates attend the Harvard conference, U.N. committees and special agencies can be copied by delegates. At the Nebraska delegation, only a few important standing committees are selected,

theirs." He said a shortage of tables hurt communication at the Harvard conference.

"People were sitting on the floor and standing on chairs to work," Walker said.

However, Walker said, the Harvard conference was more effective than Nebraska's.

"The UNL conference pales in comparison," he said. "There are practical limitations, too few people on staff."

Walker said he was impressed with the intelligence of the delegates at the Harvard conference.

"They were the most brilliant students in the world from every major university I could think of, as well as international schools," he said.

Students from Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale and the University of Sorbonne in Paris attended, he said.

He said Saudi Arabian King

Fahd's son was a delegate. Students



cal and Security Committee, said he noticed a lack of cohesiveness at the conference.

"I seized the opportunity to get in and moderate," he said.

Walkersaid he persuaded the U.S. and Soviet delegations to sign a treaty at the conference.

"I sat down with the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. (delegations) and negotiated a comprehensive chemical weapons ban which was passed al-

Walker said.

Procedures at both conferences are also different, Walker said.

The Harvard conference focuses on international problems, while the Nebraska conference educates delegates on how the United Nations works.

Kluch said he prefers Nebraska's smaller conference.

"It may be a prejudiced view," he said, "but ours is a notch above from nations such as Luxembourg. Kuwait and Cuba also attended the conference.

Walker said winning the outstanding delegate award surprised him.

I think it says a lot for UNL to display a similar intellectual capacity as the finest universities in the world," he said.

Walker said the chemical weapons ban treaty that the conference passed was the highlight of the trip.

Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Walker

egislature kills school consolidation bill Monday

By Amy Edwards Senior Reporter

A bill that would require mandatory consolidation for Class I school



districts was killed 23-14 in the Nebraska Legislature Monday.

Sen. Vard Johnson of Omaha, who introduced LB726 in 1987, said

Other education issues to be 'left on the table' for more debate

many other education issues will be "left on the table" until legislators discuss the structure of school districts

The bill would have required all Class I school districts to merge with an existing Class II, III, IV, V or VI school district. Class I school districts include kindergarten through eighth grade.

Under the bill, if a plan from a

county committee for mergers was not presented to the state by July 1, 1990, the state committee would merge those districts before Sept. 1, 1990

Johnson said the bill would have eased property taxes in Nebraska by giving every school the same financing

Sen. Howard Lamb of Anselmo, who made the motion to indefinitely

postpone the bill, said the bill had 'nothing to do" with property taxes.

Lamb later said the bill is similar to LB662, the school consolidation law that Nebraska voters repealed in 1986.

LB662, unlike current measures, included a 1-cent sales tax increase to provide property tax relief.

Lamb said he would support

Papillion Sen. Ron Withem's ideal to affiliate schools by having high school students from Class I schools pay a tax levy instead of non-resident tuition.

Withem, chairman of the Legislature's Education Committee, is working with an ad hoc committee to try to reach a compromise on the consolidation issue.

LB940, introduced by the ad hoc committee and amended by the Education Committee, would not mandate school consolidation.

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