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Tuesday

Weather: Tuesday, sunny and mild, high in the mid to upper 60s, winds from the S at 5-15 mph. Tuesday night, not as cold, low in the mid to upper 30s. Wednesday, sunny, high near 70.

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Sports: Williams sets unofficial world record —Page 5.

Air Force ROTC closings postponed

Officials to re-assess programs in 1990

By Anne Mohri
Senior Reporter

U.S. Air Force officials announced Monday they will delay until 1990 their decision to close or consolidate nearly 40 university Air Force ROTC programs, including one at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Carol Lawrence, press secretary for Rep. Doug Bereuter's Washington office, said Bereuter, R-Neb., received a letter from Col. Timothy Titus, chief of the Program Liaison Division of the Office of Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon, with the announcement.

"After further scrutiny, the secretary of the Air Force has decided to postpone the current plans of closure and consolidation," Titus wrote.

After two years, the Air Force will re-evaluate the ROTC programs using the same criteria as before, Lawrence said, and the two-year postponement gives the programs sufficient notice of when the next evaluation will be and time to meet the criteria.

She said Bereuter has talked with several Air Force officials since the Air Force's decision to close UNL's program in January.

Bereuter is concerned about the use of the same criteria in 1990 because of their emphasis on the size of the ROTC program instead of the academic quality, Lawrence said.

Susan Olson, legislative assistant to Bereuter in Washington, said Bereuter, along with Rep. Virginia Smith, Rep. Hal Daub and Sen. David Karnes — members of Nebraska's Republican congressional delegation — wrote a letter to the Air Force discussing the criteria. The letter said the criteria were unfair and unrepresentative of the quality of UNL's program, she said.

Olson said UNL's ROTC program was ranked high, and Bereuter emphasized that the program had quality, especially in the engineering program.

Lt. Col. Jan Dalby, spokesman for the Air Force at the Pentagon, said the decision was to postpone the closing and consolidation of university ROTC programs because the criteria had not been adequately communicated to the programs.

Dalby said the decision to postpone was based on fairness to the programs, so they would have the opportunity to improve their standing

and meet criteria requirements.

A number of U.S. congress members expressed their dissatisfaction with the closing of Air Force ROTC programs in their states, he said. But, Dalby said, the issue is the criteria, not the complaints. Air Force ROTC units said they had been mistreated by the lack of communication of the criteria, Dalby said.

Col. John Vick of UNL ROTC said the decision "struck me by too much of a surprise."

He said it will be difficult for UNL to meet requirements in 1990 for several reasons. Vick said after the decision last January to close the program, many cadets either dropped out of the program or made arrangements to transfer to a university that offers it.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale agreed with Vick.

"We have some work to do because a number of students have already transferred," he said.

The number of cadets in the program has dropped to 75 because cadets felt it was not in their best interests to remain involved, Vick said.

Massengale said the students are the winners because UNL's Air Force ROTC program allows options they would not otherwise have. UNL is the only college in Nebraska with an Air Force ROTC program, he said.

Vick said the Air Force ROTC program stopped recruiting when the decision to close the program was announced Jan. 27.

Vick said he had to write to high school seniors who were awarded four-year scholarships and decided to attend UNL and tell them the program was going to be closed. He said now he has to write them and tell them the program has two more years. However, he said, they may not want to take the risk of it closing in 1990.

Sen. J.J. Exon, D-Neb., said in a written statement, "I am pleased the Air Force is coming around and realizing the value and excellence of the UNL ROTC program."

In February, Exon wrote Edward Aldridge Jr., secretary of the Air Force, asking him to reconsider his decision to close UNL's Air Force ROTC program because of its size.

"We have won the first round," Exon said. "Now we must work to make sure that the re-evaluation in two years is based on the quality of the program and not primarily on the quantity of graduates."



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Up in arms

Texas rocker Joe 'King' Carrasco rocks 'em in front of the Nebraska Union Monday afternoon.

Moore uncertain of more pay hikes

By Amy Edwards
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg said Monday he may not support further financing of faculty salaries for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Moore said that although he did not have any problems with appropriating \$20.5 million for research and faculty salary increases at the University of Nebraska this year, UNL needs to re-evaluate what universities it includes in its peer group.

The 10 schools UNL compares itself with for faculty salaries are not valid peer institutions, Moore said. UNL should consider Big Eight and some Big Ten schools when comparing faculty salaries, he said.

The 10 universities in UNL's peer group for salary comparisons are Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa State, Maryland, Michigan State, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio State, Penn State and Purdue.

Moore said he cannot ask his constituents to pay more taxes for university salaries when he can't defend the increase. He said people would be willing to pay the money if there was a peer group argument that could back it up.

John Benson, associate director

for institutional research and planning at UNL, said the peer group UNL compares itself to depends on what is being compared.

When UNL is comparing tuition, it is compared with colleges that are competing for students, Benson said. Salary comparison is a representation of a national market, and it isn't a fair comparison to look at both when more than 90 percent of UNL's students are from Nebraska, he said.

The 10 other schools in UNL's peer group for salary comparisons are all land-grant universities and belong to the American Association of Universities, he said.

Moore said because the peer institutions are larger in enrollment and their states have larger populations and budgets and more federal dollars, they shouldn't be used to compare faculty salaries.

If UNL is not competing with these institutions for students and tuition, then the taxpayers have to make up the difference, Moore said.

Moore said he does not want to raise tuition 27 percent to make faculty salaries comparable, but that it is not fair to make taxpayers make up the difference.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said the peer group used when determining faculty salaries has been

used for more than 10 years.

Massengale said the mistake most people make is comparing the whole university with the other universities. The universities that UNL competes with for faculty members are institutions with similar roles of mission as UNL, he said.

"We are comparing English professors to English professors," he said.

If the university is going to compete with peer institutions for professors, Massengale said, the salaries must be comparable.

"If salaries are comparable, we can compete with them for better faculty and bring in better students," Massengale said. "We are a small state, but when we are putting our resources on the line . . . education is the highest priority."

Moore said he understands that UNL is not a top institution from an employee's standpoint. The University of Nebraska is often a "stepping-stone" to a better institution, and if professors do choose to stay in Nebraska, it is probably for the quality of life, he said.

"There comes a time when you have to level with the people of the state and tell them where we can afford to be, where we want to be and where we are," Moore said.

UNL rated as average by N.Y. Times survey

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators said they think the results of a guide by a New York Times editor comparing major universities are just another indication that UNL is a quality institution.

The Selective Guide to Colleges, compiled and edited annually by Edward Fiske, education editor of the New York Times, gave UNL a three-star rating in academics, a four-star rating in social life and a three-star rating for quality of life.

A three-star rating is average and a four-star rating is above average, Fiske said. Five stars is

the best rating possible.

The results of the survey are based on interviews with students, he said.

Fiske's study called UNL a "typical land-grant university."

The English, math, history, and animal science departments were cited in the report as outstanding, but the report called UNL's financial aid office a fiasco.

UNL chancellor Martin Massengale said he thought the results of the guide were positive and was not disappointed that UNL was not rated higher.

UNL has gone up in Fiske's guide in recent years, he said, and the five-star rating is reserved for a small number of highly prestigious,

elite universities that have more award-winning faculty.

"So many of these (surveys) are indications that we are a quality institution," he said. "We are a quality institution and probably better than that (average)."

Massengale said the above average rating in the social category is probably because the big student population at UNL and the large amount of activities and programs sponsored by the university.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he thinks the survey was not a very good indication of how UNL rates with other universities.

Griesen said he remembers receiving 10

forms from Fiske and being advised to give them to representative students to fill out. Griesen said he gave them to volunteer students from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"The whole businesses of rating colleges in this way frustrates me," he said. "I see surveys of that type as being of precious little value."

Griesen said he thought it was impossible to rate a university's social life, and said he thought UNL should receive a five-star rating for its quality of life because students can easily become involved on this campus.

Robert Furgason, vice chancellor for academic affairs, declined to comment on the rating.