

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

INDEX

WEATHER: Thursday, cloudy, high in the mid 50s with SE winds, 10-15 mph. Thursday night, fair, low in the upper 30s. Friday, partly sunny and warmer, high in the mid 60s.

News 2
Editorial 4
Diversions 5
Sports 13
Classifieds 15

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Regents opt not to buy computer system

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents rejected a proposal to purchase a \$5 million computer system following heated debate at an emergency teleconference meeting Wednesday.

The regents previously rejected the proposal at their regularly scheduled meeting Friday, but decided to reconsider the funding during a teleconference to give the regents more time to consider the proposal and get more input from the Nebraska Legislature.

The proposal was presented by Wilfred Schutz, assistant vice president and director of university-wide computing, because the current IBM mainframe system is approaching gridlock and is working at near capacity.

The regents opened the hour-long teleconference with a motion to approve the system, but it failed by one vote.

Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City said she had some "real concerns with spending money we really don't have."

Hoch said she thinks it is "presumptuous" to assume the Legislature would support such a project.

"We'll be out on a limb," Hoch said. "I'm concerned that this will affect our first priority — faculty salaries."

Regent John Payne of Kearney said the regents would have only been committed for

about \$500,000 until July 1 under the lease/purchase agreement. If the Legislature rejected the proposal, the university would have to find more money in its budget to cover it.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said the university should look at buying computer time somewhere else until July 1, when the NU budget calls for an update of the system.

'I think the idea that we are somehow losing \$100,000 is ludicrous. I think my plumber would give me a better discount.'

—Hock

Blank said he also isn't sure if the new system is in the best interests of all three campuses.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn said that the regents already have decided to go to centralized computers and shouldn't back out of that decision.

"This just absolutely blows my mind," Hansen said.

Hansen also was concerned that the univer-

sity would lose the \$100,000 IBM was offering as an incentive if the contract was signed before Oct. 20.

Hoch said she doesn't think the incentive is important enough to justify approving the system.

"I think the idea that we are somehow losing \$100,000 is ludicrous," she said. "I think my plumber would give me a better discount."

Hoch said she wants other alternatives to be brought up for consideration.

Schutz said he has examined other alternatives, such as buying computer time on another system such as the state's system.

"It became clear that moving (to another system) ... would not be a feasible alternative," he said.

Blank said he thought NU should look at a short-term alternative until the Legislature reconvenes Jan. 4.

"It just staggers my mind we couldn't keep our computers functioning for 75 (more) days," Blank said. "I think we'd be the laughing stock of the state if we acted in four days for a 2-percent incentive."

The regents then reconsidered the proposal, but it was again defeated by one vote.

Schutz said university officials will now "watch the load grow." He said NU is "essentially" at gridlock now.

"The response time will get longer and longer," as the load grows, he said, which will delay university activities.

More problems inevitably will occur during spring registration, which is starting now, he said.

Schutz said he will see if he can regulate some university activities and delay them to cut down on the load. Computing activities are currently running all night, he said, so the computers don't have any free time.

"We'll have to use the time for the absolutely essential processes," Schutz said, such as accounting and payroll.

Schutz said he doubts a better deal can be arranged and said he feels "badly for the users of the systems."

"Clearly, this will affect their productivity," he said.

The proposed package would give NU three times the capacity over the current system, Schutz said.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said he is worried that lower response time will cause more complications in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

"I think it would be unfortunate for the university if we continue to have problems with that system," he said.

"I do know there is a slowdown in computer time and I do think we need to improve that," he said.

Schutz said he will present other proposals at the November regents meeting.

Petersen and Hill angry at ASUN

By Ryan Steeves
Staff Reporter

The President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska blasted the ASUN Senate Wednesday night after the body voted to limit executive reports to three minutes.

Jeff Petersen joined Bryan Hill, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee, in attacking senators for their lack of dedication.

Hill and Petersen said senators limited the times of executive reports because they wanted to adjourn as quickly as possible. They said senators should start developing serious legislation and become more serious at senate meetings.

"Right now I'm pissed, very pissed," Petersen said during his opening statements.

Petersen, speaking in a low, sharp voice, said "pass" at his first chance to make a three-minute address, allowing 1st and 2nd vice presidents Nate Geisert and Kim Beavers as well as Hill to speak first.

Hill said the executive reports are about the only chance he has to tell senators about GLC affairs.

A three-minute limit doesn't permit enough time to tell senators about all of the GLC projects and meetings, he said. Hill suggested that senators take a more active interest in such affairs.

"Maybe we ought to go out and find some legislation for the senate," Hill said, raising his voice. "We seem to be very lax right now."

Petersen, who spoke after Hill, said he wanted to use his executive report time to present his list of 19 possible programs that ASUN could sponsor.

Petersen complimented those senators who do want to develop and present legislation.

"But if you're not one of them, I think you should resign," he said.

Senators voted to withdraw the time limitation after Petersen and Hill's statements.

Petersen listed the 19 suggestions, ranging from surveying UNL students about their opinions of dead week policy to developing a university-wide event that would attract all types of students.

Later, Petersen apologized to senators for his earlier outbursts.



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris discusses the Mayor's Task Force on Illegal Drugs report at a press conference Wednesday. In the background are task force members (from left) Bob Reier, Joel Gajardo, Valerie Shangreux and Marj Hutchinson.

Lincoln report says crack can be controlled

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The trend toward increased drug use in Lincoln can be reversed if the city implements recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Illegal Drugs report released Wednesday, Mayor Bill Harris said.

"The bottom line is, we can handle this," Harris said during a

press conference.

Resources already exist within the city for comprehensive programs, he said.

"I will be calling on every part of our community to get involved with the ideas (outlined in the report)," he said.

Harris said Lincoln is different from other cities because it can stop "crack" use before it becomes a major problem.

The 29-page report, which the task force had been compiling since July 1, includes an analysis of the current drug situation in Lincoln and recommendations for reversing the use of illegal drugs in certain areas of the city.

The report focuses on LSD, cocaine and crack, which is a derivative of cocaine. It states that narcotics officers have seen an increase in the amount of cocaine brought into

the city in 1979.

The Lincoln Police Department's narcotics unit has reorganized several times since then to share information with other law enforcement units and has added two narcotics officers to the unit.

Lincoln also received grant money last year to implement a

See DRUGS on 3