

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

INDEX

WEATHER: Wednesday, cloudy, breezy and colder with a chance of flurries, high in the upper 30s with N winds at 15-20 mph Wednesday night, cloudy and colder, low 10-15. Thursday, cloudy and colder with flurries, high in the mid teens.

News Digest 2
Editorial 4
Sports 7
Arts & Entertainment 9
Classifieds 10

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Appointment consideration flattering, Roskens says

By Diana Johnson
Senior Editor

University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens said Wednesday he "has no information" that he is being considered for a position in the cabinet of President-elect George Bush.

Speculation arose Monday when U.S. Sen. James Exon suggested Roskens would be appointed to the Bush administration as ambassador to China. Roskens frequently visits China because of university agricultural ties.

Exon told members of the Kearney Rotary Club that Bush officials probably are considering Roskens for the position.

In a telephone interview late Monday, Exon told the Daily Nebraskan, "In Washington, there's some knowledge that President Roskens has some interest in and has educated himself in the People's Republic of China."

Roskens said that at the moment, an appointment to the Bush cabinet "is purely speculative."

"It must be," he said in a phone interview Tuesday, "at least it is to me."

"But obviously, I'm complimented," he added.

Roskens, who has been president

of NU since January of 1977, said he does not wish "to engage in any speculation" of what choice he might make if an appointment to the Bush cabinet was made.

"Speculation is useless," he said. "As of now I know absolutely nothing."

Roskens, who said he has known Bush for at least 7 years, met with the president-elect and about six other university presidents in an informal 50-minute meeting in Washington, D.C. last week.

Roskens, who was appointed as chairman to the National Education Task Force during the Reagan administration, said he was impressed with Bush's attempt to discuss issues "so early on in the transition."

Roskens said Bush obviously has made education a high priority in his list of national concerns.

"He signals that this is an important issue to him simply by meeting with us," Roskens said. "And secondly, he shows his willingness to talk about how to resolve educational issues."

Roskens said he and the other officials attending left the meeting "with an optimistic feeling."

"I think we got the feeling that Bush is someone who will do more than just talk about something," he said.

Faculty Senate committee shows UNL athletes academically fit

By Jamie Pitts
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska Faculty Senate committee told senate members Tuesday that UNL's student athletes are academically fit.

Jim Horner, chairman of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, said the committee reviewed UNL athletes' academic progress, advising and the number of correspondence courses the students take in its annual report.

Jim Lewis, a liaison between the faculty senate and the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, said some faculty had been concerned that students, athletes included, were taking too heavy a course load, including correspondence courses.

However, research by the committee showed that the number of ath-

letes taking correspondence courses had dropped from 98 in the 1986-87 academic year to 34 in 1987-88.

Horner said he attributes the drop in the number of athletes taking correspondence courses to policy changes made by the Department of Continuing Studies last spring.

Lewis said the change in policy does not allow students, including athletes, to take a larger course load of regular and correspondence courses than university policy allows.

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, athletes are graduating at a comparable rate with other UNL students.

"The 1987 graduation rate of all students entering at UNL in 1982 was 39 percent compared to 38 percent of

See FACULTY on 3



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Hammerin' away

Builders Inc. employee Paul Tlamka uses a jackhammer to work on the steps of the north side of Morrill Hall Tuesday afternoon. Workers are about halfway finished replacing the steps, which are part of the ongoing renovation of Morrill Hall.

Officials to review multi-use I.D. proposal

By Lee Rood
Senior Editor

Talk of a multi-use, campus-wide photo I.D. card may become a reality for the fall semester of 1989 if University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale and UNL officials approve the card by late January.

UNL students and officials have been working on the idea of an all-campus I.D. card to take the place of other credit, library and residence hall cards since last year.

The Campus Wide Photo Identification Card Committee, established last year by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, submitted a proposal and the results of a six-month study to Massengale this week.

Griesen and Doug Zatechka, director of university housing, said Massengale and other UNL officials are expected to make a decision on the card sometime between now and mid-January.

Griesen said the decision would have to be final by the end of January in order to implement a card system by fall, 1989.

The card committee, made up of about 20 UNL students, officials and faculty, meets today at 2 p.m. About six members will hold an

open forum afterward at 3 p.m. in the Nebraska Union computer room to receive student input about the card, Zatechka said.

The committee is still trying to determine the cost of the total project, but Zatechka estimated that, if approved, it would require somewhere between \$250,000 and \$400,000 to "get off the ground."

'An \$8 fee is the absolute minimum. A \$10 fee would definitely cover the rest of the costs.'

--Zatechka

That money would help pay for staff, computers, I.D.-making equipment and everything needed to "be in business," Zatechka said.

Because state money has been tight in recent years, Zatechka said, all money to finance the card project would have to come from within the university. About \$100,000 would come from campus organizations using the cards.

Those organizations could "very possibly" include, but are not limited to, the University Bookstore, UNL libraries, residence hall food service, the UNL Athletic Department, Campus Recreation, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Unions, Zatechka said.

The rest will most likely come from a one-time student fee of \$8 to \$10.

"An \$8 fee is the absolute minimum," Zatechka said. "A \$10 fee would definitely cover the rest of the cost."

Griesen said the cost to students could cause an adverse reaction, but students should realize that they are already indirectly paying for other card systems at UNL that duplicate each other. Most students use at least three "redundant" cards -- student I.D.'s, residence hall food service I.D.'s and library cards, he said.

The card could function as those three cards at a lower overall cost, Griesen said, and has the potential for expanded capabilities.

The card could be used as a debit service for students in the Nebraska Unions. According to Griesen, students could use a paid account within the union to pay for the services it offers.

According to the committee's report, students should also be able to use the card to vote in student government elections.

In the residence halls, the card could have the capability to distinguish which meals students pay for, Griesen said. Currently, students who pay for 13 meals per week can eat only lunch and dinner. The card, if officials approve the capability, would allow students to choose which meals they want to eat for their money.

In addition, the card could be used to gain entrance into new facilities, such as the rec center, and could be used as an I.D. for athletes, Griesen said.

Zatechka said the final cost of the card depends on whether officials decide to use a commercial contractor or to develop the card system internally.

"Right now, the committee is tentatively leaning toward the internal model, pending further financial and technical analysis," Zatechka said.

Griesen said now is a good time to develop the card system because the residence halls' current food service card system is "antiquated" and needs to be updated. The library also is planning to update circulation, he said.

If the card is approved, the committee would make sure it could be used in place of existing card systems, such as the University Bookstore's credit card system, which does not need to be updated.