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CORRECTION

State Budget Director John Rochford's name was misspelled in two recent articles (DN, Feb. 3 and 7).

WEATHER: Wednesday, decreasing clouds, but cold temperatures with highs 5-10, NW winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy and cold with lows 5-10 below zero. Thursday, sunny with highs around 15. Friday through Sunday, continued dry conditions.

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Nebraska Sen. Jerome Warner

David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Warner sympathetic to funding equipment

By Eric Pfanner

Staff Reporter

When deciding NU's 1989-91 budget in April, at least one member of the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee may support funding for lab equipment for the College of Engineering and Technology.

"I am sympathetic to doing it if we can," said state Sen. Jerome Warner, chairman of the committee, at a speech Tuesday in the Nebraska Union.

Although funding in the budget probably will be less than the amount requested, Warner said, problems involving accreditation of University of Nebraska-Lincoln programs need to be considered by the Appropriations Committee.

Gov. Kay Orr requested no funding for engineering lab equipment in her two-year budget request for 1989-91, while the NU Board of Regents included \$525,000 for engineering lab equipment in its 1989-91 budget request.

If the Legislature does not give money for engineering equipment, engineering students may have to pay another tuition surcharge next year. Engineering students had to pay a \$9 per credit hour tuition surcharge this year.

Warner said that given a choice between funding for research or funding for equipment necessary for accreditation, he would support funding for equipment.

"My outlook is to make sure existing programs are solid before starting anything new," he said.

But Warner said he didn't have a "clear picture" of the budget for NU at this point.

Competition from other programs in the budget makes it difficult to be specific regarding the budget right now, he said.

He also said he didn't know how much would be included in the budget for a faculty salary increase.

"Ask me in two months," Warner said.

The Legislature will decide on the budget in April, he said. The NU budget is scheduled to go before the Appropriations Committee March 14.

Between now and April, he said, it is important for students and Government Liaison Committee members to establish close contact with legislators. He said personal contact will help the Appropriations Committee decide what some priorities for funding are.

Warner also discussed LB160, which proposes including Kearney State College in the NU system.

Warner said that it would be "totally consistent" at this point to include Kearney State in the NU system.

But the bill is not a budget issue, he said.

"It is simply a question of a clear definition of the role and mission of an institution," he said.

Spire: Rulings should be appealed

By Larry Peirce
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire said he will advise Lincoln County Attorney Kent Turnbull to appeal two rulings made by Lincoln County district judges based on the right-to-bear-arms amendment of the state's constitution.

Judge Don Rowlands ruled Monday that the right-to-bear-arms amendment, passed by initiative in the 1988 election, grants felons the right to possess firearms. Last week, Judge John Murphy ruled the statute that prohibits possession of a defaced firearm is unconstitutional because of the amendment's language.

Spire said he was disappointed in the rulings and said he would advise they be appealed because the state's statutes the rulings affect are public safety measures.

If the rulings were upheld by the state Supreme Court, Spire said, Nebraska voters should repeal the

right-to-bear-arms amendment.

Spire said the amendment is broader than any other in a state constitution that he knew of.

"It's very far reaching, very broad," he said.

The people who wrote the amendment never intended it to be interpreted the way it has been, Spire said, but was sold to "protect sportsmen and hunters' right to bear arms."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln law professor James Lake said he disagrees with both rulings.

"It wasn't the intention of those who drafted the amendment to pass something that would have the effect these two judges says it has," he said.

Because the right-to-bear-arms amendment was added to the constitution by initiative, which required the signatures of thousands of people to put the issue on the ballot, there is no way to find out what the amendment's supporters intended. If the constitution is amended by convention or by the Nebraska Legislature, there is more debate to indicate intent, he said.

"You can't ask 60,000 people what they intended," he said.

If the amendment would have been debated by the Legislature, its effect on existing statutes might have been questioned.

The state Supreme Court would have the same problem it had with Initiative 300 if they try to decide what the amendment's intent was, he said, because it was passed by initiative.

"They had a hell of a time finding out what that meant," he said. "They had nothing to go back to."

Lake said he wasn't surprised that Spire would want the rulings appealed.

"If you get some of these cases going... a wildfire will start and this amendment will abolish everything," he said.

Lake said he thinks the amendment was drafted in Washington, D.C. by a lawyer of the National Rifle Association. He said it wasn't the intent of the NRA to allow felons to possess firearms or to allow the possession of defaced firearms.

Center requests 10 cent per student fee increase to CFA

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

The University Health Center requested a 10 cent per student per semester student fee increase in its 1989-90 budget request to the Committee for Fees Allocation Tuesday night.

The .19 percent increase would generate an extra \$4,570 in the health center's student fee budget. Students would pay \$55.03 in Fund B fees for the center, up from \$54.93 in the current budget.

Kunle Ojikutu, director of the health center, said the center was able to "hold the line" on expenses in its budget request because the center has started using generic drugs.

"We have saved lots of money, and in return we are giving credit to students on what has been saved," he said.

The biggest increase in the budget request was a 233.33 percent increase in the small equipment budget to \$20,000, up from \$6,000 this year. Ojikutu said this is necessary so the center will have flexibility to purchase equipment it may need in the future.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the center previously had to request money for small equipment from the bond facility improvement account. He said this account is meant for large-scale facility maintenance projects, and money for smaller items shouldn't have to be drawn from this account.

The budget request included a 30.64 percent decrease in the center's printing budget. Ojikutu said the center recently bought a new copy machine, so the center has been able to save on outside printing and copying costs.

UNL program improves quality of state math teachers

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been working for several years to correct problems in mathematics education recently identified in a national report, according to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor.

The report, released by the National Research Council, said mathematics education in the United States needs to be completely revised from the kindergarten through the Ph.D. level. The report stated that today's schools teach children the way "information age" the same way they taught children of the industrial age.

Donald Miller, assistant chairman of the Department of Mathematics,

said UNL had been developing programs to correct this problem long before the report was released.

Miller said that since 1986, he has headed a program that teaches the newest mathematics to the best math teachers of the state. The program identifies the 60 best secondary math teachers in the state.

Those same teachers attend summer school at college campuses around the state for three years where they are taught the latest techniques for teaching math. The faculty is rotated from campus to campus each year and is chosen from schools throughout Nebraska, he said.

The teachers share their education with other teachers through workshops, papers and organized math contests.

The program's participants are "taking the leadership in math education in the state," Miller said.

In return for participation in the program, the teachers receive tuition, room and board for the courses, in addition to a \$1,000 stipend each summer.

Another program organized by Miller and administered by UNL is the Junior Mathematics Prognosis program.

The test is given to high school juniors and identifies their math deficiencies while they can still be corrected.

Miller said a similar program in Ohio had dramatic results reducing the number of freshman at Ohio State University who had to take remedial math courses from 42 percent in 1977

to 25 percent in 1984.

The number of freshmen who entered calculus went up accordingly from 6 percent in 1977 to 11 percent in 1984.

Miller said that since UNL's program has only been in operation since 1988, results will not be known until next year.

In 1988, the 45-minute test was given at 21 high schools around Nebraska, he said. In 1989, the test will be given at 67 schools geographically distributed across the state.

Miller said he expects that students who take the test are "more likely to graduate in four years," because they are able correct their math deficiencies while they are still in high school.

The program also will help save students money by allowing them to take remedial math classes in high school where they are free, Miller said.

The program currently is a pilot program funded by UNL and the Nebraska Department of Education, but Miller said the program has expanded as far as its pilot budget will allow.

State Sen. Sandy Scofield has introduced legislation that would fund this program for every high school in the state, Miller said.

This bill, LB134, passed in the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee and senators should make a decision before the end of this session, he said.