

ASUN bills oppose merger of KSC into NU system

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Senate Bill No. 64 directs the Government Liaison Committee to lobby against the passage of LB160. Senate Bill No. 64 states that KSC's "standards of excellence" must be proven comparable to those of NU before KSC is added to the system. It also calls for an extensive study to examine ramifications of the change on NU and the state.

Government Bill No. 6 is a statement expressing the opposition of UNL students to any structural change in higher education in the current legislative session. Petersen said this bill was a "philosophical statement" to help GLC's lobbying efforts.

"Our number one priority is to take a stand to ensure the best possible thing for our university," he said.

"Kearney State is a good state college, but it hasn't been shown that

they are at the same level of excellence as our university," he said.

Petersen said there isn't enough money in the state to pay for an expansion of the university system. He said taxes and tuition would have to be raised, or programs would have to be cut at either school before KSC could be added to the system.

"I don't see any of these happening," he said.

Other money problems also make the expansion unwise, he said. KSC has asked for a 49 percent budget increase this year, and would need \$12,875,000 in funds to raise it to the midpoint of its peer group, he said.

"Expansion's not a good idea for them," he said.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha also have money problems, he said. Even with the proposed increases in faculty salaries over the next three years, he said, UNL won't reach the midpoint of salaries among

its peers.

UNL and UNO students now pay 115 percent higher tuition than they did 10 years ago, Petersen said. Also, he said, engineering students at UNL had to pay a \$9 per credit hour surcharge for lab equipment because the state didn't allocate enough money to the college.

If KSC joins the system its tuition may also be raised, he said.

"If students at Kearney start to think about it, they might not be so red hot about it (LB160)," he said, because they may see significant tuition increases.

KSC's tuition is now 24 percent less than UNO's and 33 percent less than UNL's.

Nebraska, with its small tax base, is already in the upper half of states in per capita spending for education, Petersen said.

Petersen said the reorganization issue has gone further than he thought it would.

"It has snowballed," he said.

If KSC gets momentum going, other state colleges will try to join the university system, he said.

Petersen said he is not an opponent of reorganizing governance of the state's colleges. There are better ways to coordinate higher education, "but this isn't the way to do it," he said.

A "superboard" or a governing body with strong influence would use money wisely and prevent duplication of academic programs, Petersen said.

Government Bill No. 6 urges Gov. Kay Orr and the Legislature to form a task force to study the "expansion" of the university system and the entire structure of higher education in the state. The bill states that a task force should study these issues:

-- The governance of higher education, including the NU system, the state college system, the community and technical college

system.

-- The coordination of all state-supported institutions of higher education in Nebraska.

-- The feasibility of, or need for, increased state supported university campuses in Nebraska.

-- The academic standards of all institutions of higher education in Nebraska.

-- Economic ramifications of any changes to the current higher education structures.

Some UNL students might not understand the complex issue of reorganization, Petersen said, "but there haven't been any students coming in to tell me that bringing in Kearney State would be good for UNL."

Faculty Senate supports regents' proposal

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate passed a resolution Tuesday supporting the NU Board of Regents' proposal for a study group to consider the reorganization of Nebraska's post-secondary schools before any legislation on the matter is passed.

The regents' resolution, passed Saturday, states that LB160, which

would transfer Kearney State College into the NU system, and LB760, which would create a second state university system, should be deferred until the 1990 legislative session. That deferment would allow the Legislature to study the group's findings.

The senate's resolution also supports the regents' proposal that the present salary increase commitment for the university should not be affected by any merger and agreed that

it should remain the senate's and regents' top priority.

Robert Diffendal, faculty senate president, said the whole question of higher education in the state needs to be considered before disassembling the state college system.

Diffendal said he expects the senate to agree on whatever recommendations the study group makes on structural changes in the NU system.

Nancy Hoch, chairman of the Board of Regents, said during Tues-

day's meeting that the regents continue to support the three-year plan that calls for increases in faculty salaries.

"As we come down to priorities, I'm still convinced that our faculty salaries (issue) is our number one concern," Hoch said.

Hoch said that when students were willing to pay increased tuition to support the faculty salary increases, it sent a "loud, clear voice" that salaries needed to be increased.

Raising awareness theme of Trojan sex survey

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

The makers of Trojan condoms will be sponsoring a survey on birth control, condom usage and sexually transmitted diseases as a part of an educational program at a booth in the Nebraska Bookstore today and Thursday.

The booth also will distribute copies of the surgeon general's report

on AIDS, Trojan Gold Cards, informational brochures on Trojan products and samples of Trojan condoms.

"By launching this educational program on college campuses, we hope to raise the awareness level of young adults and encourage them to take precautions against sexually transmitted diseases," said Mark Klein, vice president of marketing at Carter Products, the makers of Trojan condoms.

Trojan brand condoms are the No. 1-selling brand condoms in the United States with more than 50 percent of the market.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is among 20 major colleges and universities across the country participating in the Trojan survey. The total enrollment at these schools is nearly 550,000. The program is taking place as a part of National Condom Week which started Tuesday.

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