

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Friday

WEATHER:

Friday, cloudy and colder with flurries, high near 20 with NE winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, cold, low 0-5 above. Saturday, partly sunny and cold, high near 20.

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## Committee hears testimony on construction

By Eric Pfanner  
Staff Reporter

The Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature heard testimony Thursday on a bill that proposes \$809,098 for construction in the Walter Scott Engineering Center and under the connecting link to Nebraska Hall.

LB600, introduced by state Sen. Lowell Johnson of North Bend, proposes finishing first-floor space in the link, renovating an existing mechanical engineering office for research use, and installing a computer terminal room and an elevator in the cen-

ter. Construction on the engineering center will never be finished without state funding, Johnson said.

He said the engineering center was

originally to be funded entirely through federal funds and private donations such as \$1 million from Walter Scott Jr. But, he said, not enough money could be raised through private funds and federal contributions to complete the project. Therefore, he said, the administra-

tions of Govs. Bob Kerrey and Kay Orr have never requested funds for the engineering center in their budgets.

Stan Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, spoke neutrally on the bill.

Initially, Liberty said, completing the engineering center and link was not a high priority item within the university. But with the rapid expansion of research in the engineering college, construction would be only an "interim step."

"Our research growth has been quite dramatic over the last several years," Liberty said.

Due to this growth, he said, the college has "run out of elasticity" in its use of space.

Johnson said construction as proposed by LB600 would stimulate research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln into the 21st century.

When asked what would be housed in the newly-finished part of the link under LB600, Liberty said the space could be used for instructional equipment necessary for accreditation of the college.

Liberty said there has been a tremendous amount of private funding for research equipment, which is contributing to the "gobbling up" of

space in the center. But accreditation requires a continuous supply of money for maintenance of this equipment.

"It's (funding for maintenance) as fundamental as a library in a university," he said.

The accepted amount nationally for maintenance, he said, is \$2,000 per bachelor's degree per year. In the college of engineering and technology at UNL, this means approximately \$800,000 per year is required for maintenance.

LB600, he said, does not provide funding for equipment or maintenance.

### legislature NEBRASKA



Allen Scheben/Daily Nebraskan

Ken Oestmann, an Auburn farmer, testifies for citizen input into the low-level radioactive waste site project at the Legislature Thursday.

## Low-level radioactive waste site hearing draws 300 people

By Diana Johnson  
Senior Editor

More than 300 people gathered Thursday at the State Capitol for about six and a half hours of testimony about low-level radioactive waste site legislation.

As Room 1517-C reached capacity, about 100 people gathered in the East chamber to view a live video of the hearing of five bills that would provide further legislation concerning the sites in Nebraska.

Several townspeople and farmers from Boyd, Nuckolls and Nemaha counties,

where proposed waste sites are located, and interest group spokespersons testified on the bills.

Some audience members wore small paper signs that read, "The risk would be ours; the choice should be ours."

The first bill, LB314, requires community consent for proposed waste sites that would be the safest and healthiest for a nearby population.

Speaking on behalf of the bill, Lynn Moorer of Nebraskans for the Right to Vote called for Gov. Kay Orr to stand by the promises made to Nebraskans when a low-

level radioactive waste site first became an issue.

Initially, Moorer said, the governor said communities would have input on the location of the sites, and all safety and health conditions would have to be met before a location would be announced. Proposed sites were announced by US Ecology, the site developer, in January.

Moorer said the issue has become one of popularity rather than one of environmental and community concern.

See ENVIRONMENT on 6

## Petersen maintains COLAGE fund denial

By Lee Rood  
Senior Editor

Jeff Petersen, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, upheld Thursday ASUN's decision to deny all student fee funding for the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events.

In a letter to the Daily Nebraskan, Petersen said his decision to support ASUN's Wednesday denial of \$746 worth of student fee funding comes after "extensive discussion, consultation and deliberation."

Petersen said in the letter that he also will recommend that COLAGE not be funded to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen based on five "logical, not emotional, conclusions" he made on the issue:

- That denial of funding does not constitute discrimination.

- That a person's sexual preference does not constitute belonging to a cultural minority.

- That other groups make a similar case for funding, and that funding such groups on the same grounds as COLAGE would set a dangerous precedent.

- Questions as to whether funding for COLAGE would be allowable under NU Board of Regent's policy.

- That a "vast majority" of students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln do not support student fee funding for the organization.

Petersen said he spent most of Thursday in the ASUN office deliberating his decision.

"This decision has been an extremely difficult one, nonetheless, I feel I have done a good job and served the student body well," he said in the letter.

Nanci Hamilton, co-chairperson of COLAGE, said Petersen's first point to uphold the decision is wrong because COLAGE was evaluated by ASUN "on criteria that differed from all other UPC committees."

Hamilton also said Petersen "was woefully uninformed" about gay/lesbian culture, and because COLAGE is a University Program Council committee, it should be funded.

"I hope Dr. Griesen would . . . do the ethically correct thing and not compromise the integrity of his office by catering to bigoted, prejudicial university student government politics," she said.

Griesen and UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale are the last channels through which the Fund A student fee request need be approved. Griesen said he will make his student fee recommendations to Massengale following

See PETERSEN on 3

## CFA cuts center's budget nearly \$4,000

By Jerry Guenther  
Staff Reporter

The Committee for Fees Allocation voted 6-3-1 to reduce the budget request of the Women's Resource Center by \$3,810 during deliberations on the Fund B budget Wednesday night.

Fund B fees are the non-refundable portion of student fees, which are used for the University Health Center, Nebraska unions, Debt Service and Campus Recreation.

The Women's Resource Center, which is funded through the Ne-

braska unions' fees, had requested \$32,814. According to the CFA subcommittee report on the Nebraska unions, the \$3,810 decrease would reduce the center's hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening hours would remain the same.

Before voting to approve funding for the Women's Resource Center, CFA members discussed the center's merits.

CFA member Keith Malo said the center has an image problem.

"I don't necessarily believe throwing money at it is going to solve the problem," Malo said.

CFA chairman Kevin Lytle said the committee can either give the center the requested money so they can solve their problems "internally," or take drastic steps and "eliminate the problems."

Marcee Metzger, coordinating consultant for the center, addressed the question of the center's image.

"Whenever you're going against cultural norms such as sexism, you're going to be targeted," Metzger said.

In other Union Board requests, CFA voted to give food services \$14,637 of the \$19,516 requested. CFA recommended eliminating the

Colonial Room food service.

The vote passed 7-3 after some CFA members said the reduction was necessary to encourage union food service outlets to become profitable.

In other business, the committee approved the University Health Center and Campus Recreation requests as submitted.

The breakdown of Fund B student fees per semester during 1989-90 includes \$23.55 for Campus Rec, \$55.03 for the health center, \$26.46 for the Nebraska Unions and \$18.00 for debt. The total of Fund B fees per student per semester for 1989-90 is

\$123.04, an increase of \$6.85 from last year's Fund B fees of \$116.19.

The CFA recommendations are subject to approval by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the NU Board of Regents. James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said student fees probably will be increased after a faculty and staff salary increase.

Those increases will be decided by Gov. Kay Orr and the Legislature, Griesen said.

In a worst case scenario, Griesen said, Fund B fees would be increased to \$130.59.