

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

WEATHER:

Wednesday, sunny skies with highs 20-25, NE winds 10-15 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, cool with a high of 5. Thursday, sunny and breezy with highs in low 30s. Friday through Monday, chance of rain or snow on Friday with highs between high 30s and mid 40s Saturday and Sunday, lows in 20s.

INDEX

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

February 22, 1989

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 88 No. 106

Officials debate university status for KSC

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee heard testimony Tuesday about adding Kearney State College to the state's university system under LB160, but took no action on the bill.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, co-sponsor of the bill, said the status change is necessary.

"The only guarantee one can make in any public policy area is that change is going to occur," he said.

The changes being made in higher education within the state could come in two forms, he said, as a new university system or as an expansion of the existing system.

The state "can't support competing university systems," he said.

Adding KSC to the existing sys-

tem will prevent competition, he said, while at the same time granting KSC the status it deserves.

Currently, KSC meets all but one of the criteria necessary for gaining university status, according to a study by the Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission, Warner said.

KSC lacks the suggested number of master degrees to be considered for university status, but it will be able to expand its graduate programs to meet the criteria, Warner said.

Even if LB160 is not passed, KSC will expand its graduate program, he said.

Sen. Doug Kristensen of Minden, another co-sponsor, said KSC would be a logical addition to the university system because of its location and its dedication to rural economic development.

"Kearney is not UNL," Kristensen said. "We don't need another UNL."

Adding KSC to the university, he said, would make the positive effects of the system more easily available to people in western Nebraska.

"It will bridge this state together through education," he said.

Bruce Elder, chairman of the KSC faculty senate, agreed.

"The (KSC) faculty feel that if Kearney State were to become a part of the university system, the state would be drawn closer together," he said.

KSC President Bill Nester said the size of KSC, with an enrollment of 9,275 students, makes it more comparable to NU than to the other state colleges.

In the United States, Nester said,

there are 602 institutions with enrollments smaller than KSC that are designated as universities. Only four institutions with enrollments larger than KSC are designated as colleges, he said.

Jim Bachmann, student lobbyist for the KSC student senate, said the university designation is necessary for KSC in Nebraska because it would be a university in most other states.

Not only would the university designation be more prestigious for KSC, Kester said, but it would also help to foster economic development in the area.

Bachmann agreed.

"In serving Nebraska, we could do it more effectively as a part of the university system," he said.

The committee received part of

the testimony on the bill through a telephone feed from Scotsbluff which enabled citizens from that area to testify without coming to Lincoln.

Jean Lavelle, chairperson of the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, who testified against the bill, said the board was not in favor of the bill because of the legal questions it raises and the possibility of increased tuition costs for KSC students.

UNL student regent Jeff Petersen also testified against the bill.

The economic ramifications of adding KSC to the university system are enough to discourage the bill's passage, Petersen said.

Currently, KSC is facing a severe lack of funding, he said.

See KEARNEY on 6



David Feliceon/Daily Nebraskan

It's not THAT cold . . .

Someone's mitten found its way to a branch on a tree just north of Avery Hall Tuesday morning.

Muslim students ask for ban on novel in University Bookstore

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

A group of muslim students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has requested that the University Bookstore not order or sell any more copies of "The Satanic Verses," the book Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini has declared blasphemous.

Larry Behrends, manager of the bookstore, said three students approached him Monday, asking if the store had sold the book and whether he intended to keep selling it. He did not remember the students' names, and said they did not give specific reasons for wanting to stop the book's sales.

Behrends said his store sold out of the book

last week when the controversy hit the news. Author Salman Rushdie wrote the book.

"We will be getting it again for those who special order it," he said.

"The students indicated that they would prefer we not sell the book . . . either over the counter or by special order," he said.

Usamah Uthman, director of UNL's Muslim Student Association, said he does not know which students protested, but that he understands their feelings.

"I feel the book should not be sold," he said. "It's very offending to muslims, which represent a large portion of the world's population."

See PROTEST on 6

Chizek says bill necessary to study institutions' roles

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

Concerns about expanding Nebraska's university system mandate a study of the role and mission of each postsecondary education institution, Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha said.

Chizek told the Legislature's Education Committee at a hearing Tuesday that his bill, LB247, would help coordinate postsecondary education by creating a commission to oversee a study of the system.

The commission established by the bill would include three state senators and a representative from each of the state's postsecondary institutions to be appointed by Gov. Kay Orr by Oct. 1.

The commission would be responsible for hiring an independent organization outside Nebraska to study the state's higher education facilities.

The hired organization would conclude its study and deliver a report addressing Nebraska's postsecondary education needs by Jan. 15, 1991.

Paula Wells, chairperson of the Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission,

agreed that the study would help answer questions about expanding the state's university system.

Changing the names of state colleges and universities under other bills discussed by the committee could be postponed until the study is finished, she said.

But Chizek said LB247 was not intended to be a means of delaying action on other bills.

Kermit Hansen, an NU regent who was not testifying on behalf of the board, said he favors LB247 because the hiring of an independent organization would ensure objectivity in the report.

Also, the time frame allowed by the bill is adequate enough to provide a solid, in-depth study, he said.

Tammy Schmidt, student senator from Wayne State College, also testified in support of LB247.

The role and mission of state colleges and universities needs to be clarified, she said.

An out-of-state organization would be able to determine roles and missions in an unbiased manner, she said.

The Education Committee took no action on the bill, but will reconvene Monday.

Death penalty adversaries to begin eight-day annual protest fast today

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

Sixteen members of Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty, including two University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors, will begin an eight-day fast today to protest Nebraska's death penalty.

At a Tuesday morning press conference, Janet Dennison, one of the fasters, announced that in addition to fasting, the group also plans to distribute fact sheets about the death penalty at the west entrance of the state capitol building throughout the week.

On March 1, the group plans to hold a "break-fast" in the morning to end the week-long hunger strike. March 1 is Abolition Day, a nationally recognized day to protest the death penalty. That afternoon, members of the group will distribute candles of hope to all state senators, Dennison said.

In the evening, Dennison said, the group plans a candle vigil to start at the Gathering Place at 15th and E streets and then march north to the capitol.

Reasons for participating in the fast vary with each member, but Nelson Potter, associate professor of philosophy at UNL, said the reason for his participation in the fast is "to call attention to the fact that there is a death penalty and it is used."

The United States is grouped with Iran and South Africa in the use and frequency of the death penalty, Potter said, and that is an odd group for the United States to be in.

Robert Haller, English professor, and UNL students Christy Phabe and Cindy Wall also are participating in the fast.

Bill Rounding, one of the fasters, said that fasting traditionally has been used to draw attention to civil rights, religious and political protests.

Rounding said his group has fasted annually during the week leading to Abolition Day since 1987.

Marjorie Manglitz, another faster, said, "I know the bitterness, retaliation and revenge that take place every time the state kills a human being. It is our society, ourselves, that loses humanity as we sow the seeds of violence."

Manglitz also quoted Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in saying "capital punishment is society's final assertion that it will not forgive."

When asked about mass murderers such as Ted Bundy, Rounding said that people should ask themselves, "Do I feel any safer now that Ted Bundy is dead?"

Rounding said the cost of executing a person also should be considered. He said studies in other states show that the average execution costs taxpayers between \$1.5 and \$2 million.

Sharon Balters, a registered dietician from the Madonna Centers, said she didn't think a fast of this length would be life-threatening as long as fluid levels were maintained.

The only harm from fasting might be a weight gain after the fast because of the body's reaction to starvation or danger to borderline diabetics, Balters said.