

UNL research animals to be centrally located in future

By David G. Young
Staff Reporter

Future need for animal care facilities will be determined by a survey distributed Feb. 23 by Vice Chancellor for Research John Yost, Yost said.

The survey comes after a gradual increase in the number of University of Nebraska-Lincoln projects requiring animal research, not because of an increase in the number of animals being used, said Gene White, director of UNL's institutional animal care program.

UNL researchers are conducting 220 projects requiring animal specimens now. He said that although the number of projects has increased, each project uses fewer animals than before.

Because the projects are conducted by many different departments, the animals are spread out over many different buildings, White said. This high dispersion makes animal care less efficient, he said.

One solution to this problem, which will be discussed after the results of the survey are analyzed, is the centralization of facilities on campus, Yost said.

"As we assess the needs, it certainly will involve expense," he said. "That will also be true if we need to

provide central facilities on campus. (The) centralized facilities initiative would be taken by this campus with respect to efficiency with research."

The results of the survey will address how UNL can best comply with federal animal care regulations without impeding research efforts, he said.

"We're certainly interested in the amount of funds that will be needed to keep us under federal guidelines through the Federal Animal Welfare Act," he said.

Under regulations initiated by the U.S. Office for Protection from Research Risks, UNL is eligible for federal research grants involving animals if researchers comply with the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," White said.

Yost said he is required to sign an assurance form each year, to state that UNL is in compliance with these regulations.

UNL received \$1.5 million in federal grants for research with animals in the 1987-88 term, Yost said, and receipts are expected to be higher this year.

"We will comply, no question about it, because we would not want to lose that funding through the National Institute of Health," he said.

White said the "Guide for the

Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" has explicit guidelines for proper animal care, including recommendations for the number of animals to place in various sized cages. The guide also requires proper light, heat and humidity conditions.

"These are recommendations you can vary a little bit," he said. "If we get off too far that's where the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) comes in."

The committee is a group of 11 university officials and one external member that oversees the treatment of animals in research facilities on campus.

Otis Young, minister of First Plymouth Congregational Church and the committee's external member, said he has never seen any significant problems at any of UNL's animal laboratories.

"Unannounced inspections are done twice a year by our committee," he said. "Any standards that were significantly not up to what they should be have been corrected. Our committee is very impressed."

In addition to the committee's inspections, the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspects the facilities once a year, and the National Institute of Health can stop in anytime for a spot inspection, White said.

UNL research facilities currently have about 4,600 mice, 300 chickens, 130 rats and 280 other animals, including rabbits, cattle and prairie voles, said Corinna Tressler, animal care supervisor for UNL.

White said there are no regulations that explicitly state what types of experiments can and cannot be performed on animals. Some practices, such as multiple surgeries on one animal, are discouraged, but can be allowed if it is essential to the research, he said.

Reduced expense is not an adequate reason to perform multiple surgeries, White said.

"It's a judgment call whether the pain the animal will endure will be worth what you will get out of it," he said.

The decision not to allow certain types of experiments rests with the committee, he said.

"The use of animals in research has been a tremendous bonus to the U.S., and the world in general," White said.

"In the U.S. we expend only 15 percent of our personal income on food, and that enables us to enjoy color television. This is true because we have been able to do research on animals."

Despite these benefits, White said, increasing pressure has been put on the government by animal rights groups to eliminate all research done on animals.

While this pressure has not ended animal research, it has made significant changes in federal regulations on animal care, he said. These changes include the creation of IACUC committees at all facilities receiving animal research grants.

White said Columbia University recently lost \$30 million in federal grants after the National Institute of Health found violations in Columbia's treatment of research animals.

Yost said the future of animal research may be reduced by alternatives currently being developed. The National Research Council presented a report last year discussing alternatives such as chemical reactions which simulate biological processes, computer-oriented research and mathematical models.

"That could reduce particularly the number of mammals in research," he said. "I think this is a significant development having to do with animal research. I predict that there will be more research relating to alternatives."

Former student arraigned for counts of theft by deception

From Staff Reports

A former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student was arraigned in Lancaster County Court Tuesday for two counts of theft by deception, said John Colborn, deputy Lancaster County attorney.

Sean D. Foster reportedly used an acquaintance's student ID in late October and early December to falsely obtain two short-term loans through the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, said Sgt. Mylo Bushing of the UNL Police Department. The loan checks were for \$500 each and were later cashed, he said.

Foster was sentenced in Douglas County Court last Friday to six months probation for a Class I misdemeanor forgery charge, according to a court spokesman.

In late January, Foster reportedly had attempted to cash a \$600 short-term loan check in Omaha that had been obtained from the UNL financial aid office, Bushing said. This loan also was secured by falsely using an acquaintance's student ID, he said.

Bushing said the department was investigating the October and December forgeries when the Omaha Police Department contacted them.

He said a UNL investigating officer visited with Foster in Omaha, who admitted committing the October and December forgeries. Bushing said documents obtained in the investigation support Foster's statements.

Foster, a UNL student in the fall of 1988, will return to court for a docket call March 20, according to court records. At this time, Foster will request or waive the right to a preliminary hearing, Colborn said.

Dead week changes proposed

By Julie Daeul
Staff Reporter

An ASUN senator proposed to the Faculty Senate Tuesday that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln hold no classes the Thursday and Friday of dead week.

Sen. Carmen Currey of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska said students could use those two days to "catch up" on studying before finals week.

Currey, a Teachers College senator, also proposed that professors follow dead week policy more closely.

She said a survey given to more than 400 UNL students indicates that students do not disagree with the current dead week policy, but with the way it is followed.

"Students don't see why it's a dead week because they still take quizzes and write papers," she said.

John Braeman, a history professor, said a lot of students and faculty do not have an understanding of the policy. He said students have a legitimate complaint about the way the dead week policy is followed and enforced.

William Lewis, a mathematics and statistics professor, said he sees a "certain loss" for students if they do not attend classes those two days.

"There are other ways to improve academic excellence than to not have class," he said.

The senate voted to send the proposal to the Calendar and Exam Committee and will take action at a later date.

Parties attack opposing platforms

DEBATE From Page 1

But, Gestring said, it is important to realize that not all students want to get involved in ASUN.

The debate heated when Rock was asked about a PRIDE poster hung in the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall complex. The poster said residence hall students need to work together to defeat IMPACT and alleged that IMPACT is a party "run by grecks and funded almost entirely by grecks."

Rock said PRIDE represents residence hall students because he, as ASUN president, would compensate for the lack of representation of residence hall students by ASUN senators.

Marc Shkolnick, IMPACT Teachers College senatorial candidate and current RHA vice president, said he

found the PRIDE poster offensive because it "slams" grecks and works against efforts for cooperation.

One member of the audience asked how the parties would handle the issues of tuition surcharges and funding for the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events.

Bowman said SLUMBR would stop increases in tuition and surcharges by intensive lobbying. The surcharges are due to "a lack of money from the state," he said.

SLUMBR would reverse the decision to deny money for COLAGE, Bowman said.

Both Rock and Hill said they support the decision to deny money to COLAGE.

Gestring said all students should be help pay for equipment to avoid surcharges for specific colleges.

"It may be your own college next time," he said.



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