

Daily Nebraskan

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NU budget approved

Regents shelve Roskens' raise

By Jana Pedersen
 Staff Reporter

A salary raise for University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens was not part of the \$710 million budget approved Friday by the Nebraska Board of Regents.

Regents approved salary increases for other staff members of all three branches of the University system, but failed to grant an increase for Roskens as it has in past years.

Joseph Rowson, NU Director of Public Affairs, delivered a message

to the press Saturday from Board of Regents' Chairman Nancy Hoch about Roskens' pay raise delay.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Rowson said Hoch's message stated that board members ran out of time before the June meeting and were unable to make a decision on raising Roskens' salary.

"The board has an obligation each year to review the performance of the president, and they simply were unable to do that," he said.

The board will act on Roskens' salary at its July meeting, he said.

The approved budget includes an 11.5 percent increase in faculty and staff salaries at UNL.

At the board meeting, Roskens said he was pleased with that increase and hopes it will help bring NU faculty salaries back in line with ten other land-grant institutions that have been determined as NU's peer institutions.

In the past decade, NU has fallen behind its peer institutions in what it pays its faculty, Roskens said.

Currently, he said, NU is 10th out

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More graduates are needed

Industry presidents predict major engineering shortages

By Emily Rosenbaum
 Staff Reporter

The demand for engineers in American industry is not being met by the number of students graduating from colleges and universities, said the presidents of US West and General Motors at a press conference Tuesday.

Richard McCormick and Robert Stempel said that the quality of education is there, but not enough American students are willing to pursue an engineering degree.

'We do a better job of encouraging people to join the Army than to become engineers.'

-- McCormick

Current predictions indicate that this lack of engineering students will result in a shortage of 560,000 needed engineers by the year 2010, McCormick said.

The press conference was held in Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium as

part of the annual meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education. American industrial representatives, exhibitors from companies and educators from across the United States gathered in Lincoln Monday through today for the event.

At the press conference, McCormick stressed the importance of making students interested in engineering and to cultivate that interest at an early age. He said that engineering is an exciting profession that doesn't involve just laboratory experiments.

"We do a better job of encouraging people to join the army than to become engineers," McCormick said.

Making math and science enjoyable in grade school is paramount to starting that interest in engineering, Stempel said. He added that students are not interested in such subjects partly because homework assignments are not challenging and teaching techniques are old-fashioned.

"We want to be sure that students find the joy of learning again," Stempel said. "We have to make science less frightening."

During the 1960s, engineering technology was considered a fasci-

nating profession, Stempel said.

Disappointment followed in the 1970s and into the '80s because of the Challenger space shuttle and Three Mile Island disasters, he said. The public's confidence in technology also has been shaken because no cures have been found for AIDS or cancer, Stempel said.

Funding cuts also create problems for engineering education, McCormick said.

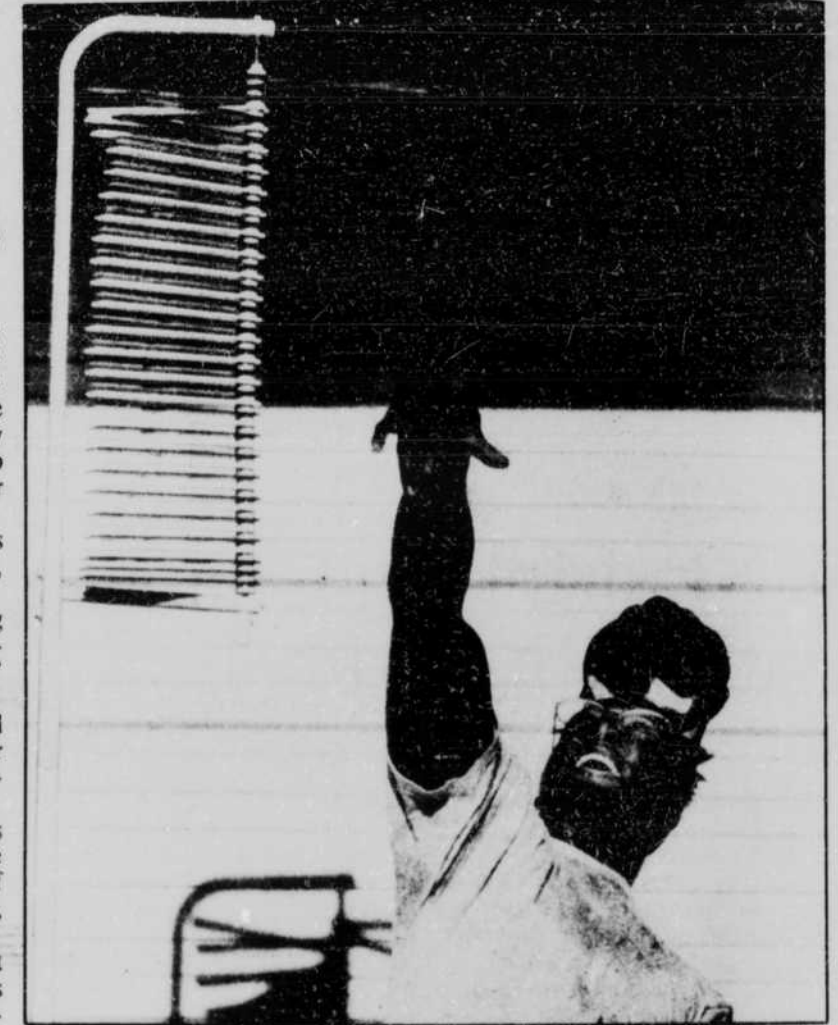
"We're turning out engineering graduates with 1990 ideas after having them use 1960s equipment," McCormick said.

Universities and colleges need money to prepare college students for the ever-changing advances in technology, he said.

The number of foreign students entering engineering programs in the United States illustrates the lack of interest among American students, he said.

The fact that foreign students want to study in the United States "speaks well for our educational institutions," Stempel said.

But after earning U.S. degrees, many foreign students return to their homeland, he said, allowing their native countries to reap the benefits of their U.S. training.



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Flyin' high

Temperatures weren't the only thing that were high Tuesday. Curtis Cotton, a sophomore defensive back from Omaha, jumps 41 inches, a vertical jump record among Nebraska football players.

Kerrey: Handling of Two Forks Dam is disappointing

By Jana Pedersen
 Staff Reporter

U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey D-Neb., told reporters at a press conference in Lincoln on Tuesday that he was very disappointed with the way the Denver Water Board was handling the Two Forks Dam issue.

Referring to a private meeting that members of the Denver Water Board were having with local politicians Tuesday, Kerrey said, "They're two years too late."

Kerrey said the two groups should have met two years ago, when the Two Forks Dam first was proposed.

Colorado officials want to build the dam on the Platte River near Denver so the metropolitan area will have enough water to meet needs in the 21st century.

Nebraska politicians have objected to the dam, saying it would lower water levels in Nebraska, endangering the habitat of water fowl.

According to Del Weed, environmental health and safety officer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the dam also would reduce the flow of the Platte River in Nebraska, lowering water level of the underground aquifer.

Monday's session with local politicians was held at a Nebraska Water Resources meeting, closed to the press and public.

Not allowing the press or public to attend the meeting is an example of why the water board is "in trouble," Kerrey said.

Kerrey said the water board has been afraid to involve the public in the issue because they want to get the project done without showing concern for anyone downstream and without considering the possible environmental effects.

The Environmental Protection Agency is studying the Two Forks Dam issue. Kerrey said this should ensure that the situation is dealt with fairly.

Kerrey also commented on the recent Su-

preme Court decision that states flag burning is protected under the first amendment to the constitution. Kerrey called the decision "most unfortunate."

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell has studied the constitutionality of the issue carefully and has issued a very persuasive argument for making flag burning illegal, Kerrey said.

But Kerrey said any emotional response on the issue, including amending the constitution to make flag burning illegal, would be "dangerous" because other problems, such as public apathy, are a greater threat to the U. S. government than flag burning.

In other matters, Kerrey called the U.S. administration's "guarded" stance toward the Chinese government a good, constant response.

The administration shouldn't break off any diplomatic ties with China, he said. Instead, it should find other ways to promote democracy within the country, Kerrey said.

One way to promote democracy in China would be to challenge Great Britain's policy towards its Chinese colony of Hong Kong. Great Britain has avoided implementing democratic policies in Hong Kong, Kerrey said.

According to a treaty between Great Britain and China, Great Britain is scheduled to give control of Hong Kong to the Chinese government by 1997.

Until Hong Kong changes governance, Kerrey said, Great Britain officials should be doing all they can to promote democracy within the city.

Instead, Great Britain officials are doing all they can to control the citizens of Hong Kong, he said.

The U.S. government should pressure Great Britain to grant more personal freedoms to the citizens of Hong Kong, Kerrey said.

He said democratic reforms in Hong Kong could show "that personal freedom and domestic tranquility can work (in China)."