

Roskens' exit unexplained

ROSKENS from Page 1

are in the best interests of the university.

"We have ended the speculation and disagreement on this matter," she said.

Hoch refused to give reasons for Roskens' dismissal, saying it is not unusual to withhold such information.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said the agreement between Roskens and the regents doesn't allow regents to reveal why he was relieved of duty.

"One of the agreements in the mutual consent was that there would be no discussion," Blank said.

Blank said Roskens asked for that clause in the agreement. He said it was a normal clause under the circumstances and carries legal ramifications.

Blank said it is now time for the

University to look ahead.

"I think the fact that seven of eight regents voted for the agreement is indicative that we think the university should move on," Blank said.

Hoch said that a national search for a new president would begin "very soon" but would not put a time frame on the search.

She said that although Massengale has been appointed interim president, he would not have an inside track to the presidency.

Blank said the regents' government subcommittee will appoint a search committee to sift through candidates and make recommendations to the board. He said it would probably take between 12 and 18 months to find a new president.

"This is probably the most important decision members of the Board of Regents have to make," Blank said.

Wesley supports board's decision

SENATORS from Page 1

of Regents Chairman Nancy Hoch, Withem asked the regents to explain their actions.

"As a senator who voted to appropriate tax dollars for the support of the university, I feel that the Legislature and the public is owed a better explanation.

"I am concerned that an elected body would choose to redirect approximately \$250,000 (Roskens' salary for two years) without providing an explanation of the public policy reason for the termination of Dr. Roskens," he wrote.

In the letter, Withem said that if Roskens failed in any of the important duties as a university president, the regents were fully justified in their action.

Withem said he had a "mixed review" of Roskens' performance.

"I think he did a fine job in some areas, a fantastic job in other areas,"

he said.

Withem said Roskens faltered in other areas.

Withem complimented Roskens for his efforts to raise faculty salaries.

Withem said he has been a long-time supporter of changing the way regents are selected. He said that regents should be appointed rather than elected, as they are now.

Withem said the public probably did not even know which regent represented them before the Roskens' ordeal.

Because they are not visible to the public, regents should be appointed by the governor, Withem said.

This way, the highly visible governor would be held accountable for board directives, giving her supervision over regents.

State Senator Don Wesley of Lincoln said he supported the board's decision.

"I think the board is charged with the responsibility to hire and fire the president and they chose to fire," he said.

Wesley said that while he usually supports the public's right to know reasons for such decisions, in this case there may have been good reasons not to discuss the actions of the board.

"I suppose it was the best thing for all concerned in this personnel matter," he said. "It is probably best for

President Roskens too."

Robert Koefoot, a former regent from Grand Island, said he did not think Roskens should have been dismissed and that the board is not serving the public by keeping their reasons for firing him secret.

Koefoot also said the decision to fire Roskens will hurt the reputation of the board.

"It will hurt their rapport with legislators, and the university will suffer," he said.

Koefoot also said that regents who claimed Roskens failed to support their position on integrating Kearney State College into the NU system were confused.

"I think the Kearney State issue was mixed up," he said. "I think it was confused, and in reality it was the fault of the Board of Regents. No way do I think that Roskens was at fault."

Koefoot said that while he was on the board, there was a "great deal of friction" between Roskens and some of the regents. He said there was friction between Roskens and Hoch on many issues. He said there was also friction between Roskens and Regents Don Blank of McCook and Don Fricke of Lincoln.

Former Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said that while he was on the board, the relationship between Roskens and the regents was "very cordial." Schwartzkopf left the board in 1984.

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