

Regents confirm Roskens' ousting; hear draft plans for KSC transfer

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents on Friday ratified the actions taken at its July 31 emergency meeting terminating Ronald Roskens as NU president.

The board voted 7 to 1 to ratify the actions taken at the meeting and the agreement and mutual release between the board and Roskens.

Regent John Payne of Kearney cast the only vote against both measures. He had cast the only vote against terminating Roskens at the July 31 meeting.

University of Nebraska at Omaha student regent Paula Effle also voted against the measures. She also had voted against Roskens' firing.

The ratification of the measures preceded discussion of a plan to appoint a committee to search for Roskens' replacement.

Interim NU President and Chancellor Martin Massengale expressed his appreciation to the regents for their confidence in him during "this challenging time of transition."

"I am determined that we do not falter or lose momentum during this year in which we have to advance the quality of higher education in the overall best interests of the state of Nebraska," Massengale told the board.

In other action, the regents' interim planning committee presented a draft of proposed procedures for transferring Kearney State College to the University of Nebraska system.

The report suggested guidelines the university should follow in implementing LB247, which calls for the inclusion of KSC into the NU system by July 1, 1991.

The report discusses immediate academic issues, cost implications and data required, and suggests transfer procedures. It suggests that the planning committee appoint a series of transfer teams to carry out the plans.

Massengale said the Board of Trustees and the regents should meet to discuss the report and then appoint the transfer teams.

The board also heard a report on a plan for decentralizing the university's student information systems.

In January, the board adopted a resolution to begin returning the responsibility for student records computing from central administration to the three campuses.

The regents unanimously approved the extension of a tenure-settlement program for 1991-93. The program offers faculty members age 62 with 10 years of service to receive one year's salary in exchange for surrender of tenure and

agreement to end their employment.

The program is designed to increase flexibility in staffing and provide faculty with the opportunity to consider alternative career choices.

During the first two years of the program, which began in 1988, 88 of 197 eligible faculty participated.

The regents' action extends the program for two more years.

The board discussed UNL's proposed acquisition of the Woodruff Building at 10th and Q streets. UNL plans to buy the property and build a 45-stall parking lot where the building is located.

UNL student regent Bryan Hill said UNL architecture students have expressed concern that the building has historic value and should be preserved.

Hill said the music department also wants to use the building for rehearsal.

John Goebel, vice chancellor for business and finance, said the building, which was built in the early 1900s, is not structurally sound. Real estate appraisers examined the property, he said, and determined that the land was the only thing of value.

A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 12 to discuss the purchase of the property.

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"You can correct applications four or five times, going to different places, and this could mean confusion in the changes," he said.

Mark Heffron, assistant vice president for financial aid services at the American College Testing program, said he believes this communication will be "advantageous to the student."

"I don't think there will be lost information," he said. "But I would be absolutely astounded if it's faster," he said.

Heffron said he fears that confusion will result because the "flow of information is different."

The current financial aid forms combine questions concerning federal aid with questions specific to each institution's needs in a manner that "makes sense together," Heffron said.

The new forms will have a section of "federal core questions, each specifically worded," he said, followed by other questions needed by individual institutions.

But the "flow of questions will not be logical," he said. Students may unintentionally miss questions on their forms, he said.

Congress now wants all federal data separate and "clearly identifiable" as federal aid questions, Moran said.

According to the Aug. 9 Chronicle of Higher Education, the new system could mean decreased processing costs for students, as the five private companies will be competing to contract each institution's financial aid load.

But Beacon and Moran said they knew of no company that will be offering a lower processing fee.

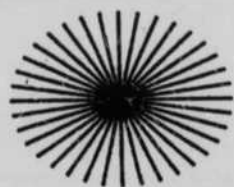
UNL has contracted the American College Testing Program beginning with the 1990-91 academic year, Beacon said, which still will charge students a \$7 processing fee.

The new system must be in operation by Jan. 1, 1990, Beacon said, when institutions begin distributing their federal financial aid forms.

Administrators are concerned whether the federal government will meet its deadlines. The government is about one month behind in implementing the program, Beacon said.

"There is a lot to be resolved between now and Jan. 1," he said, "and we are very anxious. We are waiting for the Department of Education to do what they are supposed to do, and we trust they will."

Davis agreed. "They need to get it all squared away yet," he said.



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