

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER:

Monday, partly cloudy and mild, high of 50 to 55, northwest winds 10 to 20 miles per hour. Monday night, fair, low of 25 to 30. Tuesday, partly sunny, high of 50 to 55.

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Officials still indecisive on report's proposals

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter
and Victoria Ayotte
Senior Editor

Because of the far-reaching effects that an independent consulting firm's report might have on post-secondary education in Nebraska, some education officials said they must study the recommendations before deciding whether to support them.

Widmayer and Associates, a Chicago-based consulting firm, issued the first phase of an educational study last Wednesday, addressing such issues as governance and coordination in the state.

Some of the recommendations in the 85-page report include eliminating the current NU Board of Regents and State College Board of Trustees.

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk, who attended the presentation and discussion concerning the report last week, said she is aware of some of the general implications of the report but has not yet reviewed it in depth.

Although the consulting firm conducted interviews and used other means to get input from Nebraskans, Robinson said, she does not think that residents of the state are in general agreement with its findings.

Part of the report, for example, states that regents and central administration have not "guided the development of the three campuses in

any effective, sustained way." Robinson said that finding conflicts with views expressed by her constituents.

Many of the firm's suggestions would require a change in the state's constitution, Robinson said, which she doubts Nebraskans would be willing to support.

"I don't think Nebraskans want the total change that Widmayer talked about," Robinson said.

Although some things outlined in the report are advantageous to Nebraska, Robinson said, the Legislature should not adopt any changes until Nebraskans air their opinions.

Robinson said she doesn't think Nebraska has the means to implement some of the recommendations outlined in the report.

"We are a limited resource state that cannot be all things to all people," Robinson said.

Keith Blackledge, vice chairman of the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, said he thinks the consulting firm prepared an excellent report considering the time it had to prepare it.

"The general outline of it is kind of promising and interesting," Blackledge said.

Most Nebraskans would agree with findings in the report, Blackledge said, although he thinks the public needs more time to study the report.

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Presidential search delayed

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Editor
and Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter

The presidential search committee will not meet until the NU Board of Regents, the Legislature and the citizens of Nebraska have a chance to study last week's recommendations for changing the governance system of higher education, Regent Don Blank of McCook said.

If implemented, the recommendations "would change the nature of the university system's chief executive officer's position," said Blank, chairman of the regents' Internal Governance Subcommittee.

Blank said the committee was to meet Friday, but the search now will be delayed indefinitely.

Blank has recommended that Martin Massengale continue serving as interim president for a longer period of time, and said Massengale has agreed tentatively to the plan.

'A report of this kind needs a lot of time to be studied and digested.'

-- Skrupa

Blank said he also discussed the situation with several other regents, who agreed to delay the search.

"We're very comfortable with Martin Massengale as president so we're not in a crisis situation,"

Blank said.

The regents also should not sign a contract with the search firm Heidrick and Struggles, Blank said, until they are certain of how they want the search to proceed.

The firm has agreed to wait for final notice on the search procedure, he said.

The university will be in a state of indecision about future goals and planning, Blank said, until the Legislature decides the future of higher education governance.

"The recommendations submitted by Widmayer and Associates, which have now been endorsed by the LB247 committee, are extensive and significant," Blank said in a press release. "The Board of Regents, the Legislature

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consultant's finding that Kearney State College should become a university, regardless of whether it becomes a branch of the NU system.

He also said he is open to the idea of having individual boards of trustees govern each of the separate institutions, while a new board of regents would coordinate higher education statewide.

"That might work," Blackledge said, "but I need more time to study it."

Regent Don Blank of McCook said he is neutral on the recommendations right now.

The extent of the recommended changes was a surprise, Blank said, because they are "pretty major" and "far reaching."

One proposal, Blank said, that "worries me a little bit" is the recommended change to go from two to eight governing boards.

Blank said Nebraskans will need time to examine the proposals before changes are implemented.

"I'm very much in favor of . . .

See REGENTS on 3



Chasing the geese at Pioneers Park is a good Sunday-afternoon sport for 4-year-old Daniel Nolan. Daniel's father, Clyne, of 945 S. 12th St., said Daniel was nipped on the finger last week but "he's never caught one."

William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Couriers tote less baggage for a discount

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

Travelling light now could be the ticket for travelling at a discount.

Jesse Riddle, author of the book *A Simple Guide to Courier Travel*, said anyone can qualify for discounted airline fares by working as a courier for a delivery company.

The only catch is that the traveling couriers can take only carry-on luggage, while the package they deliver replaces checked baggage, Riddle said.

"It's great for students," he said. "They can usually travel light."

Riddle, an attorney from Portland, Ore., said anyone who wants to fly as a courier must first contact a delivery company and give the company a credit-card number.

The company then will purchase a ticket to the requested location on the requested day, using the courier's credit card to pay for part of the ticket price, he said.

Although delivery companies can pay for anywhere between 35 to 85 percent of the ticket price, Riddle said, discounts typically range from 50 to 60 percent.

He said he soon will travel round-trip to Hong Kong as a courier for \$400. Normally, the trip would cost \$1,200, he said.

On the travel day, a delivery company representative checks one or two bags under the courier's name and meets the courier in the airport, he said.

When the courier and company representative meet, he said, the representative gives the courier the airplane ticket and a list of items in the checked bags.

The list must be presented to a customs agent when the courier's flight lands overseas, Riddle said. The customs agent will check the manifest against the items in the bags to make sure the list is accurate, he said.

When couriers leave customs, they will meet a foreign representative of the delivery company who will take the bags, he said.

After the exchange is made, he said, the courier's job is finished and he or she is left to enjoy the rest of the vacation.

See HEALTH on 6

See COURIER on 6

UHC use increases at semester's end

By Doug Isakson
Staff Reporter

Because of the increasing stress from final projects and exams, the University Health Center is seeing an increase in patients with physical problems, said Dr. Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the health center.

"We've seen more stress-related conditions in the last three weeks," Fleischli said, "mostly a variety of gastrointestinal problems."

These conditions come in two general types, Fleischli said -- gastritis/ulcer, which causes stomach pains, and spastic bowel,

which causes diarrhea and abdominal pains.

Fleischli said an increase in colds and flu also has occurred. Although these illnesses are seasonal, he said, they also can be caused indirectly by stress. Students with an increased work load may develop poor eating and sleeping habits, which lower the body's resistance to diseases.

To avoid stress, Fleischli said, students should use their time efficiently by starting final projects early and studying for exams as soon as possible to avoid last-minute cramming sessions.

He also said students should be "very conservative" in their use of drugs such as caffeine and alcohol. These drugs may seem to reduce

stress, he said, but actually make the problem worse.

Although it is not related to stress, Fleischli said, depression during the holidays is another seasonal health problem.

In some cases, he said, holiday depression may be caused by a condition called "seasonal affective disorder," which results from the lack of sunlight during the short days of early winter. This lack of sunlight affects the pineal gland, a pea-sized gland located in the brain, and may cause negative psychological effects.

Another less clinical cause for holiday depression is that the season seems to remind