

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Wednesday	
<b>WEATHER:</b>	<b>INDEX</b>
Wednesday, much colder, partly cloudy with chance of flurries, high of 10, northwest winds 15 to 25 miles per hour. Wednesday night, partly cloudy and colder with a chance of flurries, low of 5 to 10 below. Thursday, high of 5 to 10.	News Digest ..... 2
	Editorial ..... 4
	Sports ..... 7
	Arts & Entertainment ..... 9
	Classifieds ..... 10



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Graduate architecture students protest Regent Robert Allen's proposal to hire value engineers. From left: Joe Saniuk, Scott Lumsden, Michelle Gatzemeyer, Dave Wiebe and Michael Penn.

## Building designs at issue

# Students to battle with regents

By Jana Pedersen  
Senior Reporter

A group of graduate students in UNL's College of Architecture is preparing for a January battle with some members of the NU Board of Regents.

The students are upset with a resolution Regent Robert Allen of Hastings made at the last meeting. Allen proposed that future University of Nebraska construction projects be reviewed by a team of "value engineers" who would offer options for "more normal design."

The architecture students expressed concern over Allen's view that construction projects in the past were overly expensive because of unnecessary aesthetic qualities, such as artwork and open spaces.

But Scott Lumsden, graduate architecture student, said Allen is "trying to replace architects with engineers."

"Open spaces help relieve stress," Lumsden said. "They create an alternative for social needs."

Graduate student Dave Wiebe agreed.

"It sounds like he (Allen) would have the profession of architecture abolished," Wiebe said. "People need more than just a room and lights; more than just a box."

But Allen said he introduced the resolution to help balance what he sees as inequities in the current NU system of financial distribution.

"What people like myself want to see is that colleges like Arts & Sciences and other ones that are growing get more money for academics," Allen said.

He said that reducing the amount of money spent on "unnecessary frills" in construction could provide funding for undergraduate educational expenses.

The value engineers would come from other architectural firms who would submit alternatives to the original architect's designs, Allen said.

"An honest, objective critique never hurt anybody," he said.

"Value engineering doesn't necessarily mean the elimination of all

aesthetics of design quality, but it does offer the owner an alternative."

Although "unnecessary architectural frills" are fine in the private sector, Allen said, "In a public facility for the purpose of educating students, we have to get the most for our money."

"Many people think it's just done for the architect to make a shrine to themselves."

Regents tabled action on the resolution until the January meeting, when, Wiebe said, students will come prepared to fight.

Architecture student Joe Saniuk said the fight not only will include attending the next regents meeting in January, but also writing letters and speaking out against the proposal.

"We'd also like to issue an open invitation to have him (Allen) come speak to us and have him explain the proposal," Saniuk said. "Of course, he wouldn't be allowed to speak out here in this open space."

But Allen said students don't se-

See ARCHITECTURE on 3

# Trustee board backs suggested changes

By Victoria Ayotte  
Senior Editor

The Nebraska State College Board of Trustees plans to give a statement today of "qualified support and open-mindedness" to the recommendations submitted to the Legislature's Higher Education Committee, said board chairwoman Celann LaGreca of Omaha.

LaGreca said Tuesday that board members "feel we have a desire to be cooperative and have some meaningful input" into the study process.

"The board sees the importance of moving toward a resolution of governance in role and mission," LaGreca said. "While we don't want to move too quickly, we feel it's important to move forward."

The changes, proposed by the independent consulting firm Widmayer and Associates, would create seven lay boards of trustees to oversee the three NU campuses and the four state colleges. A board of regents would be created to oversee the boards of trustees and public higher education in general.

Currently, the NU Board of Regents oversees the NU campuses, while the existing board of trustees oversees the state colleges.

LaGreca said the trustees generally agree with the principles and philosophy of the phase I report.

"One observation is that structure by itself doesn't mean very much until we know how role and mission and budget processes will work," said the statement from the trustees to the Higher Education Committee.

Post-secondary institutions need enough flexibility to respond to regional needs "in a timely and effective manner" to make restructuring successful, the statement said.

"We need to be focused on the

goal of delivery of quality education to meet changing needs," LaGreca said. "Restructuring is not the goal; it is the means to the goal."

The board's statement made four observations on how restructuring should proceed.

- The roles of a new statewide coordinating board and board for each state college and university campus should be defined more clearly.

- "Power over budgets, role and mission and program development could give the board of regents 'superboard' status unless limits are clearly defined. Local-regional governing boards without real governing authority and responsibility will become useless and wasteful appendages."

- The recommendations must be considered as a whole.

- "If the proposals come unbundled, some moving through the legislative process and some being rejected, the package is likely to become less acceptable and less workable," the statement says.

- Current higher education governing bodies should agree on a supportive or neutral position. Some recommendations will require constitutional amendments, so the public must think a vote for the changes would not be seen as a vote for or against any higher education sector.

"Although we share with others some reservations about the results," the statement says, "... we see the 36-11-2 vote in the 1989 Legislature for the study as evidence of a desire among Nebraskans represented by those legislators for some structure changes."

- The trustees and others directly involved in post-secondary education should participate in discussions

See TRUSTEES on 3

# Library to use new computer research information system

By Doug Isakson  
Staff Reporter

By April 1990, students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be able to locate library materials using computers instead of time-consuming card catalogues and flexlines.

Anita Cook, coordinator of automated systems at UNL, said the new Innovative Research Information System, or IRIS, will save students time and legwork, and will be easy to

use. "We visited several universities who are now using the same system," Cook said, "and the one thing they all said over and over again was how quickly students learned how to use it."

Cook said the new system will allow users to get a listing of all books, articles or periodicals on a given subject by entering key words of a title or subject into one of the com-

See LIBRARY on 6

# Some students say 'weed-out' courses exist

By Jerry Guenther  
Senior Reporter

Although some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students think academic officials design certain classes to reduce the number of students majoring in overcrowded subject areas, most faculty members insist the practice does not occur.

"Weed-out" classes, as some students commonly refer to them, are designed to trim down the number of majors in overcrowded fields.

Students say the classes, which are typically large and on the freshman or sophomore level, can determine whether students retain the majors they've chosen.

Barb Jung, a senior accounting major, said she thinks the accounting department has two intermediate accounting courses that she would classify as weed-out classes.

The courses, Accounting 313 and 314, are extremely difficult, cover a lot of material, and require students to spend most of their time

studying for them, she said.

Jung, who plans to graduate next May, said accounting majors are supposed to take Accounting 313 and 314 in consecutive semesters early in their academic careers.

Even though Jung said she received an A in Accounting 313 when she took it two years ago, she decided to "put off" taking Accounting 314 until this semester because Accounting 313 was so difficult.

Jung said Accounting 313 exams were long, and seemed to be designed so the student had only enough time to finish them -- not enough time to check any answers.

Tom Hudson, a sophomore accounting major, said he also thinks the accounting department designs some classes to reduce the number of majors in the department. Accounting 252, one of the beginning level accounting classes, turns away some accounting majors, he said.

About one fourth of the original class usu-

See WEEDOUT on 6



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan