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WEATHER:

Monday, partly cloudy and mild, high 50-55, light northeast winds 5-10 miles per hour. Monday night, increasing clouds, low around 30. Tuesday, considerable clouds and 20 percent chance of showers, high lower- to mid-40s.

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NU board renews student regent vote

By Jennifer O'Clilka
 Staff Reporter

With an emergency vote Saturday, the NU Board of Regents renewed for one more year the recording of student regent opinions.

Bryan Hill, University of Nebraska-Lincoln student regent, introduced a proposal on emergency status that would have granted student regents a permanent, unofficial vote on the board.

Items are brought up on emergency status when they are not part of the agenda.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn motioned to amend Hill's original motion so that reinstatement would last only one year.

Student regents won an unofficial vote on the board last year. The vote, which has no bearing on board decisions, makes student regents more accountable by making their opinions part of public record, student regents said.

Last year, regents granted the unofficial vote on a one-year trial basis, saying they might strip away the right unless more students voted in student elections.

At Saturday's meeting, Hansen said last year's elections on University of Nebraska campuses, in which only 10 to 12 percent of students voted, prove that student regents still haven't gained support.

As an alternative to the student regent vote, Hansen suggested that regents reserve a place on the board's agenda for student comment.

Regents would receive more direct student input with a permanent place on the agenda for student comment, he said.

Hill said the board doesn't want student regents to talk about every issue when recording student opinions accomplishes the same thing. Hill said he supports the idea of stu-

dent reports at meetings but thinks it's a separate issue.

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said she resented the implication that regents don't want to hear from the student regents.

But Robinson said that even after introduction of the unofficial student regent vote last year, the number of students voting in student government elections on NU campuses remained low.

In response, UNMC Student Regent Mark Meyer said that last year, more than one-third of students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center voted in the elections.

University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Regent Kelli Sears said that continuing to record the student regent vote would increase election turnout in the future.

"I think part of the problem is that students are not aware of the issues," she said. "Through the recording of our votes, students will have better information. That's going to increase interest."

Four or five UNO students attended the meeting in support of the student opinion, Sears said.

Hill said he thinks the one-year trial of recording student opinion worked well and he is surprised anyone would be against reinstating it permanently.

Hill said he has talked to many people who think recording student opinion is beneficial because it makes student regents work harder and lets people know how they voted.

Although regents passed the proposal to record student opinion for another year, newly elected Chairman Don Blank of McCook said he would have been comfortable passing the motion for a permanent vote.

If the regents ever have a problem with the vote, they could discontinue it, he said.

Groups celebrate Martin Luther King Day

Several University of Nebraska-Lincoln organizations are planning commemorative events today in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day.

Nebraska Assistant Attorney General Gene Crump will speak from noon to 1 p.m. in the Regency Suite of the Nebraska Union. The speech is sponsored by the Office of Multi-

Cultural Affairs and the Institute of Ethnic Studies.

The University Program Council's African-American Special Events Committee is sponsoring a booth from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the union.

The Afrikan People's Union will honor King at its 6:30 p.m. meeting at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Accompanist Larry Jones, right, looks on as Larry Sean Buster finishes a song during The Annual Nebraska District Auditions for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Sunday at Kimball Recital Hall.

Students to organize against drug plan

By Sara Bauder and Jennifer O'Clilka
 Staff Reporters

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student leaders say they will organize opposition to a proposal that would suspend students convicted of drug-related offenses from public colleges and universities.

Bryan Hill, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said ASUN plans to organize a statewide coalition of stu-

dents to lobby against Gov. Kay Orr's proposal if it is introduced in the Nebraska Legislature this week.

Deb Fiddelke, Government Liaison Committee chairman, said the proposal must be introduced by Wednesday to become a legislative bill.

Both Fiddelke and Hill said politicians should not use education as a weapon against students.

"My concern is that education is something everybody should get regardless of whether they've used drugs

in the past," Hill said.

According to Gary Rex, director of Orr's Policy Research Office, the bill would require students enrolling in any state-supported institution to acknowledge that they are aware of the law.

A first conviction on drug-related charges would require the student to enter a rehabilitation program. With a second conviction, the student would be suspended from school until he or

See DRUGS on 5

Regents respond to education proposals

By Jennifer O'Clilka
 Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents on Saturday issued a statement supporting election, not appointment, of higher education boards and asking for more power for the proposed board of regents.

Regents offered their opinions as a reaction to the recommendations made for Nebraska's postsecondary education system by the consulting firm Widmayer and Associates.

Consultants from the firm recommended replacing the existing governing system with a board of trustees for each university and state college and a coordinating Board of Regents of Nebraska Higher Education.

The boards of trustees would consist of seven members appointed by the governor and approved by the Nebraska Legislature to serve six-year terms and one elected student representative. The new board of regents would consist of six elected and five appointed members.

The regents stated that the governing boards of institutions of higher education must be elected by the voters in regular elections.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said Nebraskans should have the right to control education in the state through their dollars and their votes.

Regent Chairman Don Blank of McCook said that all the regents seemed to agree that voter input is important to higher education.

See LB247 on 5

LB1114 would lower legal blood-alcohol level

By Jerry Guenther
 Staff Reporter

A bill introduced last week to lower the legal blood-alcohol content for motorists would help reduce the number of traffic accidents in Nebraska, sponsors say.

LB1114, sponsored by four Nebraska state senators, would lower the legal blood-alcohol level from .10 to .08.

State lawmakers backing the proposal say the lower level is needed because new evidence suggests drinkers become impaired at lower blood-alcohol levels than previously thought.

State Sen. Sharon Beck of Omaha, one of the bill's sponsors, said technological advances have made possible more sophisticated and accurate tests of blood-alcohol levels.

As a result of the advanced tests, Beck said, research indicates that people become impaired from alcohol more quickly than was once thought.

"We're seeing evidence that people are becoming impaired at even .05," she said.

State Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, another sponsor, said a study by the American Medical Association shows that drivers already are impaired when their blood-alcohol content reaches .05.

A 185-pound man who drinks three 12-ounce glasses of beer in one hour would register about .05 blood alcohol content, Wehrbein said.

Beck said that compared with legislation in other states that would lower the level below .08, LB1114 is "a moderate step."

"The intent is only to be positive," she said. "We're not trying to infringe on anyone's right to drink."

Such a bill is needed in Nebraska, Beck said, because drunk drivers kill, maim or injure many innocent victims each year.

Wehrbein said between 42 and 45 percent of all traffic accidents in Nebraska are alcohol related.

Nationally, he said, the percentage of accidents involving motorists who have consumed alcohol is even higher than in Nebraska.

Beck said she hopes the bill will help raise people's consciousness about consuming alcohol and driving.

Approximate Blood Alcohol Content Chart

Drinks are equal to 1 oz. of 100 proof alcohol or one 12 oz. beer

	100 lb	120 lb	140 lb	160 lb	180 lb	200 lb	220 lb	240 lb
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02
2	.08	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08

This chart represents the approximate blood alcohol content in one hour. It takes about one hour to lower the blood alcohol content .01.

proposed intoxication level

*figures in percentages. Source: Sgt. Neil Miles of the Nebraska State Patrol Traffic Div.

Andy Manhart & Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan