

Blank elected as regent chairman

By Jennifer O'Clilka
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents on Saturday elected Regent Don Blank of McCook as its chairman.

Blank, nominated by Regent Robert Allen of Hastings, defeated Regent John Payne of Kearney in the secret-ballot election.

Blank said serving as chairman in the coming year will be a challenge

because many changes face the board, especially proposals to reorganize higher education in Nebraska.

Blank succeeds Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City as chairman. Hoch was renominated for the position this year, but declined.

Hoch said she believes one important tradition of the board is the annual change of leadership.

"I believe we accomplished some very important things this year and I

think it's important that we move ahead," she said.

Hoch thanked the regents for expressing their confidence in renominating her. But she said she has confidence in the commitment of the other board members.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn defeated Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk for the position of vice chairman.

LB247

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The position issued by the regents also addressed some powers for the new board of regents. The regents' position states that for the new board to effectively coordinate, it should control the budget, have authority over chief administrative officers, establish and review institutions' roles and missions, and establish and monitor policy.

The regents' position stated that the proposed board also should have power over technical community colleges.

Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City said she is concerned that the new board, without the regents' rec-

ommendations, won't have the "teeth" to implement its ideas.

UNL Student Regent Bryan Hill was the only regent not to support the final draft of the regents' statement of position.

Hill said the "beauty" of the consultants' recommendations is that they distinguish between coordination and governance. He said the regents' statement combines coordination and governance.

"What the board wants is a super board," he said, giving more power to the proposed board of regents at the expense of the individual boards of trustees.

Hill said he thinks Widmayer's proposals would be strong enough to coordinate role and mission.

The regents want to put govern-

ance at a state level, he said, making it "really removed and out of touch with students."

"Being a student leader, I think it's better to have governance at a level close to the students," he said.

Hill said he thinks changes in the system also should provide for voting student trustees at every NU branch and state college.

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said she thinks the regents shouldn't have voiced an opinion until Nebraskans had a chance to vote on the issue.

But Blank said the regents have a responsibility to let Nebraskans know their opinion on the subject. He said the opinion of the board may be updated when the actual bill is introduced.

Drugs

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she completed a rehabilitation program.

According to the proposal, a student convicted on drug-related charges would lose financial aid from the state until completing a rehabilitation program.

Rex said the governor's proposal is much "looser" than the conditions attached to federal student aid. He said that while federal regulations require students to pledge that they are completely drug-free, the governor's proposal only would require students to acknowledge they are aware of the consequences of drug-related activity.

Fiddelke said students she has talked

to from UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Chadron State College all were against Orr's proposal.

Fiddelke said the proposal singles out students in the war on drugs.

"It is ridiculous to make them the targets," she said. "It sends a message to people across the state that college students are the whole problem, and that's not true."

Hill said he was concerned about both the constitutionality and the ability to enforce Orr's proposal. It would put restrictions on state aid similar to those already placed on federal aid, which have been hard to enforce, Hill said.

John Beacon, UNL's director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, said he also is concerned about the problem of enforcing such a

proposal.

Beacon said he has a lot of questions concerning Orr's idea.

"The proposal involves determining whether students are engaged in the unlawful sale, distribution and use of drugs," he said. "How do we know that?"

"We can use the criminal record, but how is that going to be shared with us?"

Beacon said his staff is not big enough to handle the extra work created by trying to enforce such a proposal.

"I heartily endorse a drug-free America, but my office is supposed to help make it possible for students to attend school," he said. "Financial aid has become a convenient method to regulate things, but it creates more work than we were meant to do."



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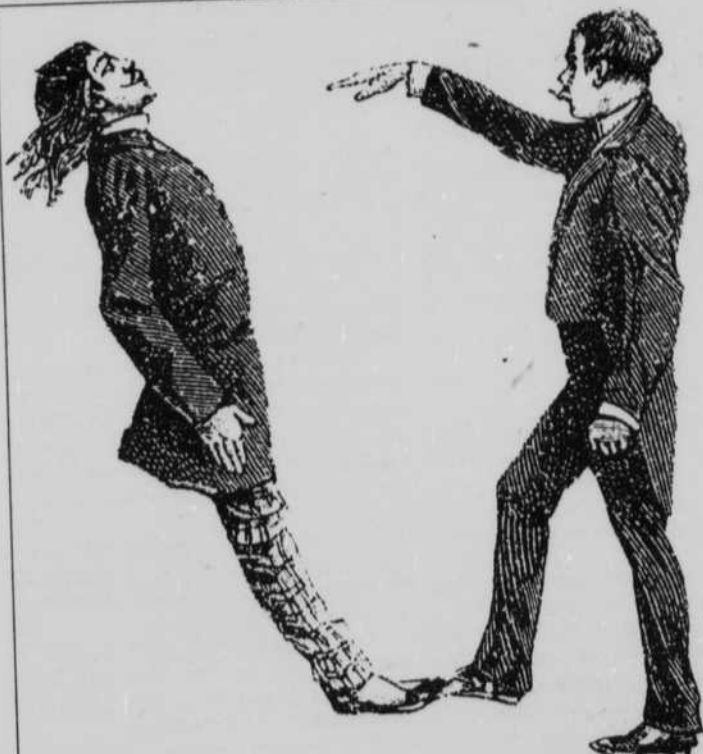
Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, City Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union; or the East CAP Office, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Offices should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 (phone 472-5667) before February 9, 1990 to make arrangements.

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Fund "A" refund amounts are as follows:

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