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Administrators, faculty approve senate changes

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

Proposals aimed at restructuring the current University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate would bring together faculty and administration and better represent all the departments, according to UNL instructors and officials.

"This is an important revitalization of shared governance on this campus," said John Yost, vice chancellor for research and dean of graduate studies. "A strong Academic Senate goes hand in hand with a strong administration."

Under the proposals, the current senate would increase in membership from about 60 to about 90 and would be renamed the Academic Senate. A separate UNL Assembly would be composed of the chancellor, five vice chancellors, three deans and other faculty members.

"This is important because key administration will be in attendance regularly," said Bob Diffendal, professor of the conservation and survey division and last year's Faculty Senate president.

Issues requiring administrative and faculty interaction could be solved at the meetings, he said.

In addition, the proposal would create biannual, all-faculty meetings headed by the chancellor in the fall and the senate president in the spring.

"I think the faculty will appreciate the involvement of the administration in the Faculty Senate," said Yost, who served on the committee that proposed the changes to the Faculty Senate.

Senate representation would be changed to allow for one elected representative for every five or more faculty members of each department, two representatives for every 25 or more and three representatives for 50 or more. Under the current system, one representative is elected for every 25 or more faculty members in one or more departments.

Virtually all the departments will be represented under the proposals, Diffendal said. The current system forces many of the smaller departments, such as anthropology, to be represented by faculty members from other departments, he said.

Desmond Wheeler, professor of chemistry and chairman of the Senate Restructuring Committee, said he thinks the proposed changes to include the administration would "help bring more faculty into the senate."

Faculty members with questions or comments might be more willing to bring their suggestions to a senate meeting as opposed to calling administrators or meeting with them in person, he said.

Another benefit of the new system would be the way the executive council would be elected, said James McShane, associate professor of English and Faculty Senate president.

The new system would provide for a president-elect who would serve for one year, take over as president the next year and then serve as the past president, he said. This would allow the president-elect to become familiar with the president's duties before actually taking the position, he said.

One issue that hasn't been addressed in the

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A late afternoon sun highlights the cars in the half-hour lot by the Nebraska Union, as a driver opens the door to her car.

Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska fails to follow trend

Many states allow advance tuition financing

By Diane Brayton
Senior Editor

More than half of the fifty states allow parents to finance their children's higher education in advance, but Nebraska has yet to follow suit.

According to an article in the Los Angeles Times, 10 states have passed legislation to allow payment of tuition at a discounted price before a student goes to college. The article also states that 22 states have approved tax-free bonds to finance higher education.

The Nebraska Legislature considered a similar program a year ago when state Sens. Jerry Chizek of Omaha and Gerald Conway of Wayne

introduced the Nebraska College Savings Plan Act. The bill failed to get beyond second-round debate. It stated that parents could establish a tax-exempt account to be used to pay their children's educational expenses upon enrollment in eligible Nebraska institutions.

Chuck Bisbee, Chizek's legislative aide, said Chizek's office began research for an education bill for Nebraska about three years ago.

"We liked the idea of providing some incentive for encouraging people to save up for college," Bisbee said.

Although the proposed act limited the amount of money that could be put into an account, it did not require the use of any particular ac-

count.

"The goal was to allow maximum freedom of choice in the type of account," Bisbee said.

When the child enrolled in college, Bisbee said, the reserved funds would be tapped. If the funds were not used for tuition, they would automatically revert to the owner and become taxable income, he said.

Bisbee said he wasn't sure why the bill did not receive enough votes to advance but added Nebraska probably would have to look at a similar bill eventually.

"More states than not have done something along this line," he said. "The general concept

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Quarterback Joseph convicted of DWI

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

Cornhusker backup quarterback Robert "Mickey" Joseph was convicted Thursday in Lancaster County Court of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Judge Richard H. Williams accepted Joseph's guilty plea, which was a change from the not-guilty plea Joseph entered at the Nov. 30 arraignment.

But according to Joseph's attorney, Hal W. Anderson, Joseph "said from day one that he was guilty."

Williams set a March 30 sentencing date for

Joseph, granting Anderson's request for a presentence investigation, which examines a convicted person's police record.

Joseph has no previous arrests or police record, either in Lincoln or Louisiana, Anderson said.

Deputy County Attorney Dan Fahrbruck told the court that the police report showed



Joseph

Joseph had a .135 blood-alcohol level, in excess of the legal limit of .10.

The report stated that Joseph was stopped by police at 5 a.m. Sept. 10. Joseph was exceeding the speed limit by 22 miles per hour, the report said.

Joseph was on his way to pick up his mother from a hotel and take her to the Lincoln Municipal Airport. She had flown to Lincoln from Louisiana to watch Nebraska play Northern Illinois, Anderson said.

Conviction on first-offense DWI carries a penalty of seven to 30 days imprisonment, a \$200 to \$500 fine and a six-month drivers license suspension.

Center provides services despite federal grant loss

By Julie Dauel
Staff Reporter

Five years ago UNL Handicapped Services opened with a three-year, \$330,000 federal research grant and served 25 students.

Today, the center serves 317 students, and the budget has shrunk to \$40,000 a year.

Christy Horn, Handicapped Student Services coordinator, said the center has looked for other financial sources to help it continue to

provide more services than federal laws require since the grant ran out in 1988.

"We're putting together a package with a lot of different people contributing, so we can supply as many services as we can," Horn said.

By law, she said, the center must provide note takers, sign language interpreters, taped textbooks and alternative kinds of tests for students who are unable to take con-

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Bill would finance study

Tires proposed as UNL power source

By David Burchell
Staff Reporter

If a local tire wholesaler's recycling proposal goes through, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln could be burning rubber into the next century.

T.O. Haas, owner of T.O. Haas Tire and Auto Service, and university officials are considering a plan to burn discarded tires to generate power for UNL.

Gary Thalken, UNL utilities manager, said power from burning tires still would have to be supplemented

by conventional fuels, such as the heating oil and natural gas that currently are used.

But the tire plant could supply up to half the university's electricity and steam needs, he said.

According to Haas, the cost of building a tire-burning plant for UNL would be about \$10 million.

Thalken estimated UNL's current annual fuel bill at \$5 million.

Turning tires into energy would have ecological benefits, Haas said. One tire is scrapped for every person in the United States each year, Haas said. Two million are discarded an-

nually in Nebraska alone, he said.

"We're spending millions and millions of dollars trying to bury energy like tires," he said.

Tires disintegrate under the ground, he said, creating petroleum waste that eventually can contaminate groundwater.

Tires are difficult to keep buried, Haas said. Expansion and contraction due to seasonal changes in temperature can cause them to work their way back to the surface.

But tires left above the surface

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