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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Tuesday

WEATHER

Tuesday, mostly sunny and colder, high in the mid- to upper-30s, northwest wind 10-20 miles per hour becoming south at 5-15 miles per hour by afternoon. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, low 15-20. Wednesday, partly cloudy, high around 40.

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NU officials make emergency deficit requests

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents' chairman thanked members of the Appropriations Committee on Monday for the Legislature's support in past years, but said unexpected circumstances make an additional \$12.6 million necessary for the 1989-91 budget.

Chairman Don Blank of McCook and University of Nebraska interim President Martin Massengale faced a barrage of questions about the emergency deficit requests.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward said the university's request for instructional equipment could have waited until the biennial budget for 1991-93.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, Appropriations Committee chairman, explained that the Nebraska Legislature has set the university's budget for 1989-91 and that adjustments

one year into the biennial budget should only be those that could not be anticipated.

While Blank and Massengale said their request met those criteria, Moore said the university could have used "millions of dollars" from energy savings during mild winters the last two years for their one-year needs.

"In the middle of a biennium, you survive until the next biennial," Moore said. "You come here asking for money when you actually can do it yourself."

The regents' method of request "makes me boil," Moore said, because, if the money is not appropriated, the regents and administration will explain to employees and students that "it's my (Moore's) fault" that they can't have the funds.

The university is requesting \$750,000 for 1989-90 and \$1.7 million for 1990-91 for instructional equipment for UNL.

Massengale said \$875,000 of that request

would be appropriated to the College of Engineering and Technology. The college would use the money to buy equipment needed to maintain accreditation, he said.

Rather than using "unstable" income sources such as energy savings, Massengale said, the engineering accreditation team coming this fall wants the university to have a more stable fund for continued equipment purchases and upgrades.

Massengale said he does not think it would be in the "state's best interest to have a non-accredited engineering college."

The university could "survive" without budget increases several ways, he said, but "there's still not a steady, reliable source of

money."

Warner questioned why NU spends money on property acquisition and other things instead of on equipment.

Several senators wondered why the university could find money for a buy-out contract for former NU President Ronald Roskens and a search committee for a new president but not its current requests.

Blank said the money for Roskens' salary was already in the budget. He said the university finds ways to finance other unanticipated expenses through such things as energy savings and tuition income that exceed projections.

Finding money for such unexpected expenses is hard enough, he said, but financing continuing expenses, such as instructional equipment, increases the problem.

See COMMITTEE on 3

GLC to bus students to education hearings as show of support

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will pack legislative committee hearings Tuesday if all goes as planned for the Government Liaison Committee.

GLC plans to bus students to the State Capitol to fill Education Committee hearings with students supporting an official student-regent vote and the proposed restructuring of Nebraska higher education boards.

Vans will leave from S Street behind the Nebraska Union every 15 minutes Tuesday, starting about 1 p.m. and continuing until the end of the hearings, said Deb Fiddelke, GLC chairman. Hearings for LR239CA and LR240CA are scheduled at that time, she said.

LR239CA would restructure the governance of Nebraska's four-year, post-secondary schools. Currently, the NU Board of Regents, composed of eight elected members, governs UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, composed of seven appointed members, sets policy for Kearney State, Peru State, Wayne State and Chadron State colleges.

The resolution would establish a Nebraska Board of Regents for Higher

Education composed of six elected members and five members appointed by the governor for all seven institutions. Each institution would have its own board of trustees to handle institutional problems.

A nonvoting student trustee would sit on each board of trustees.

If restructuring fails, LR240CA would grant voting status for one-year terms to one of the three student regents on the NU Board of Regents.

A student regent from one of the three NU branches could not have the vote two years in a row.

If passed, the resolutions would go before voters in November as proposed constitutional amendments.

GLC supports both measures, Fiddelke said, but support for the restructuring resolution would be greater if it were amended in committee to include voting student trustees.

One argument against a student-regent vote, Fiddelke said, is that students would receive two votes because they elect both a student regent and the regent in their district.

"I don't think it's dual representation," Fiddelke said, because often the regents don't consider student views when they are elected.

"If the students are represented on the board at all, it's through the student regent," she said.

See LOBBY on 5

Spire says Pawnee tribe entitled to burial remains

By Matt Herek
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska State Historical Society is not "treating the Pawnee Indian tribe with appropriate respect by opposing its efforts to get burial records and remains," said one Nebraska official.

Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire said a civil rights issue has been raised regarding proper respect for the tribe and its religious convictions.

Spire said in his legal opinion the tribe is entitled to the society's information and burial remains.

The society is required under the Nebraska Open Records Law to make its records available for public examination, Spire said.

The Unmarked Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act of 1989, or LB340, requires Pawnee skeletal remains and related burial

goods now held by the society to be returned to the tribe.

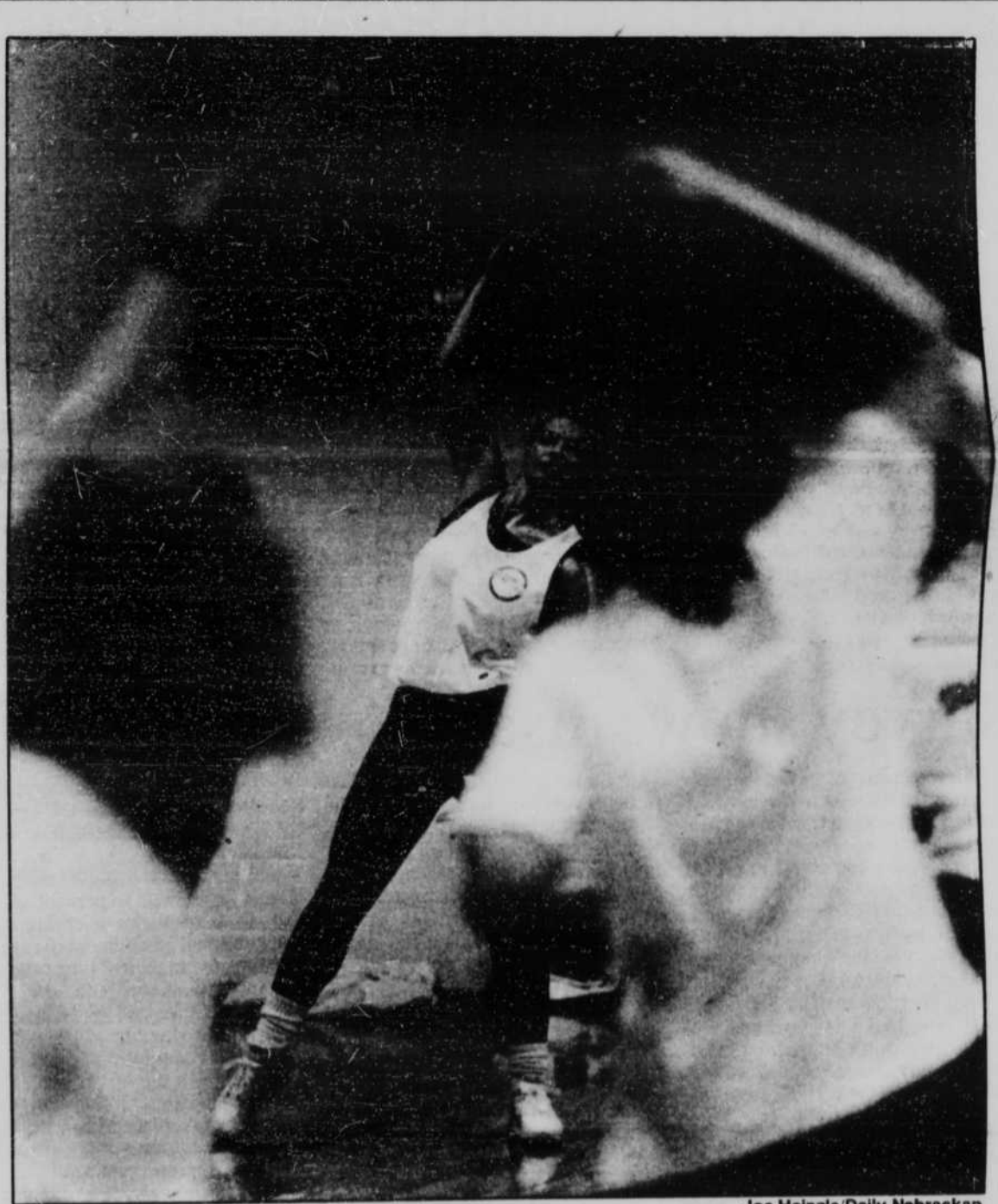
"I think a fundamental issue is whether or not the historical society is following its obligations under the open records law or LB340," Spire said.

The society has asked Lancaster County Court to tell it which law to comply with.

James Hanson, historical society director, said the two laws are contradictory and he wants to know which one the society is bound by.

Spire said the society's lawsuit claims that it is legally not a state institution and therefore not subject to the open records law. Last year, 77 percent of the society's budget was in the form of state money, he said.

If he has to, Spire said, he will seek an order from the county court requiring the society to produce the information under the open records law.



Erika Kuebler, 18, leads an aerobics class Monday afternoon at the Lee and Helene Sapp Recreation Facility. Kuebler is an undeclared UNL freshman.

'Significant' relationship shown

Survey: TV and good grades don't mix

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

More time in front of the television results in lower grades for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, according to an analysis by Wayne Osgood, UNL Bureau of Sociological Research codirector.

The analysis, based on information from the 1985-88 health surveys of 1,236 UNL students, shows a "significant" relationship between the amount of television students watch and their grade point averages, Osgood

said.

Undergraduate students watching three or more hours of television a day had an average GPA 0.3 lower than those who watched no television. Graduate students' GPAs showed similar effects, with a difference of almost 0.4, according to the analysis.

Of the 981 undergraduate students in the study, 62 percent of those who watched no television had GPAs of 3.1 or better with 28 percent better than 3.6.

In comparison, 35 percent of the students watching three or more hours of television a day had GPAs higher

than 3.1, with 12 percent better than 3.6, the analysis shows.

Osgood said that more than two-thirds of the students at the graduate level watching no television had GPAs higher than 3.6, compared to one-third of those watching three or more hours a day.

Further analysis shows that the average UNL student watches 1.8 hours of television daily, and 25 percent of students watch three or more hours a day.

"I feel this (analysis) is a good representation of this university, if not the world at large," he said.