

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER

Monday, partly sunny, high 35-40, northeast wind 5-15 miles per hour. Monday night, partly cloudy, low 15-20. Tuesday, partly sunny, high 35-40.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Improvements for NU governing system suggested

Massengale: Little change needed

By Mindy Mozer
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska interim President Martin Massengale said Saturday that the current NU governing system is "relatively efficient and little or no adjustment is necessary."

The NU Board of Regents requested at its December meeting that Massengale prepare a report identifying existing and potential duplication among the three campuses and central administration, which oversees the campuses.

Although Massengale said no sweeping changes were needed, he offered a few that he said could help improve UNL.

"I see a need for a stronger planning effort in central administration," Massengale said in a preliminary report he issued to regents Saturday. "We must establish how best to structure the entire planning effort and how to

implement strategic planning for optimum efficiency."

Institutional research could be strengthened through improved communication between campuses and central administration, he said.

Massengale said the current ac-

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NU Interim President

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counting structure has changed little over the years and could be improved by using new computer techniques.

The university must improve the flow of information between the three campuses and administrators and between the university and government, he said.

Massengale said any changes must strengthen the academic mission of the university system.

Massengale, who spoke with chancellors, vice chancellors and faculty leaders before issuing the report, said changes in central administration must be gradual and contribute to the efficiency of the system.

In a separate statement, the regents agreed with Massengale's position.

"This board is and will be an active, participative body," the report said. "Its overall responsibility is to see that the state receives the benefits of a first-class university system and to perpetuate and protect academic excellence and freedom."

The statement also stated that although the campus chancellors have a high degree of autonomy, they are under the hand of the president, who is responsible for establishing the

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NU Regents pass hall rate increase

By Mindy Mozer
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students living in the residence halls next fall will pay \$195 more for room and board, the NU Board of Regents decided Saturday.

The regents passed the 8.2 percent increase, boosting the cost for a double room with 20 meals a week to \$2,625, after hearing objections from Regents Margaret Robinson of Norfolk and Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha.

"I'm sympathetic to the needs of the dorm system," Robinson said. "But it seems to me an 8.2 percent raise is too much to ask students to pay because it's above the inflation rate of 4 percent."

Robinson also expressed concerns about parent and student reactions to the increase.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said UNL's room-and-board prices are sixth in the Big Eight. That position will hold next fall even with the increase, he said.

Griesen said UNL has kept tuition and dorm rates in line with other institutions. The average tuition cost for Big Eight schools, he said, is \$710. UNL ranks third, charging \$765 a semester for 15 credit hours.

When mandatory student fees are compared, excluding health fees, UNL ranks second to last, he said. The average cost in the Big Eight is \$101, while UNL charges \$74 for student fees.

"It's lower because we have good management," Griesen said.

According to Griesen, higher food costs, telephone costs and the minimum wage increase have caused the housing increase. The hike was not caused by bad management, he said.

UNL Student Regent Bryan Hill said he supports the increase.

"If there was an alternative to raising the rates, I would be supportive of it," Hill said. "But besides raising the rates, I can't think of a way to solve the problem."

The Residence Hall Association approved the hike Feb. 4.

"No one likes to see an increase," Griesen said. "But it's something we have to do."

Judiciary Committee hears testimony to ban ads for illegal activity

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

A bill before the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee on Friday would be "a dangerous kind of precedent for the Legislature to embark on," said Bill Donaldson, vice president for sales at the Omaha World-Herald.

LB1023 would make illegal any advertising that might promote unlawful activity. The committee heard testimony but took no action on the bill.

Donaldson said in an interview Saturday that the bill would be difficult to interpret and would be an intrusion on the freedom of speech.

Alan Pederson, of Media of Nebraska, which represents the Journal-Star Printing Co., the Omaha World-Herald, the Nebraska Press Board Association and the Daily Publications Association, testified in opposition to the bill because he said it would infringe on choices that should be made by editors and publishers.

"I think the editorial policy of a newspaper ought to be free and unencumbered by advertising interests or issues and I think that they have to remain separate," Donaldson said.

State Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion testified that the World-Herald advertises phone lines that provide betting odds and statistics on sports games.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha

told the committee that the Omaha World-Herald writes editorials opposing gambling but accepts ads for phone lines that encourage it.

"I think the state can regulate advertisements that encourage people to commit illegal acts," Chambers said. "I think it's troubling when the largest newspaper of our state takes money (for an ad that promotes an illegal activity)."

Pederson said, "I would hate to see a newspaper that would only run ads for things they agree with."

Nebraskans could use betting statistics from phone services advertised in the World-Herald to place legal bets, Pederson said.

He said information from the betting services could be used to place bets in Nevada, where betting is legal.

Tom Osborne, Nebraska football coach, said he supports the bill. Many of the problems associated with college athletics are tied to gambling, Osborne said.

Fan reactions are intensified by gambling, he said.

"Particularly when you lose a game and you lose money, you get really irate," Osborne said.

If the ads were directly connected to bookies, officials at the Omaha World-Herald and the Daily Nebraskan said they would refuse to carry them.

Donaldson said those advertisements are a misrepresentation.

"We have called those numbers and have on occasion refused

See BETTING on 3

Panel protests proposed nuclear waste dump



By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

Actor Ed Begley Jr., co-star of the movie "She-Devil" and the former television series "St. Elsewhere," spoke out against the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact in Lincoln on Saturday night.

Begley appeared with a panel of environmentalists and officials, including state Sen. Jim McFarland of Lincoln and Hugh Kaufman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Concerned Citizens of Nebraska, a group protesting the compact and the proposed nuclear waste clear waste dump for Nebraska, sponsored the rally at First United Methodist Church, 2723 N. 50th St. About 200 people attended.

US Ecology has selected a site in Boyd County for the dump.

"It's not safe," Begley said. "Nuclear power, in my opinion, is just too powerful."

Nebraskans should sort out the information given to them by officials handling and supporting the dump, look at the facts, ask "tough" questions and analyze their feelings, he said.

"We have a right to challenge these people," he said.

Officials are saying "trust me" when they assure citizens the dump would be safe, Begley said. Those are the same words officials used before accidents occurred at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, Love Canal in New York, Chernobyl in the Soviet Union and Bhopal, India.

"We have these accidents, and they occur again and again," he said.

If an accident happens in Nebraska, he said, it will be a problem for the citizens.

"It will be a Nebraska liability," he said.

McFarland, who proposed a bill that would withdraw Nebraska from the five-state nuclear waste compact, said he doesn't expect the bill to be advanced by the Natural Resources Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

Ed Begley Jr. makes a point about the dangers of low-level radioactive waste Saturday night.

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