

Fort Robinson State Park Trailside Complex discussed Appropriations bills pass first round

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

State senators gave first-round approval Thursday afternoon to several emergency appropriations bills, including one that would allocate nearly \$270,000 to the National Guard tuition credit program.

The program allows up to 1,200 Nebraska college students to receive tuition reimbursement if they're in the National Guard. The program does not have enough money to support all its members this year.

The bill, LB1170, calls for \$148,000 for the program in the 1989-90 fiscal year and \$121,000 in 1990-91.

Before advancing the bill, senators adopted Appropriations Committee amendments that prohibit discrimination in deciding what students are allowed in the program.

Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron said that because only 1,200 students are allowed in the program, students attending colleges where classes begin later in the year have been cut from the program unfairly.

"In fact, at Chadron (State College), no member of the guard was

going to get reimbursement," Scofield said.

The committee amendments require that the procedure to cut students from the program must be fair and cannot discriminate against colleges that start late, she said.

Another committee amendment requires military officials to notify students when they enlist that they later can be dropped because of limited finances.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln said she had been contacted by constituents about problems with the program.

Crosby said some students last October were notified that they had tuition reimbursement approved for the fall semester but not for the spring semester.

Scofield said the bill will prevent that from happening again this year, although problems could arise later.

After approving the committee amendments 26-0, senators advanced LB1170 without debate.

Later in the afternoon, Scofield introduced a bill requiring the NU Board of Regents to develop plans for a Trailside Complex at Fort Robinson State Park in northwest Nebraska.

Senators adjourned without taking action on the bill.

Scofield said senators appropriated money for the complex last year, but Gov. Kay Orr vetoed it.

The money would provide for a new museum, nature trail, observation tower and renovation of existing buildings in the area.

Scofield said some "priceless" artifacts almost were destroyed last year after fires burned 48,000 acres of land around Fort Robinson. A museum would help keep the artifacts safe from such disasters, she said.

The complex also would be a "one-of-a-kind attraction" for Nebraska, Scofield said.

The complex would cost around \$4.3 million, beginning with a \$100,000 appropriation this year for a program statement and plan.

Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood spoke out against the bill, saying he wonders whether Nebraskans can afford it.

Although Schmit said he appreciates preservation of Nebraska's artifacts, Nebraskans ought to support agricultural programs that are crucial to the state's economy.

Without taking steps to maintain a strong agricultural economy, Schmit said, Nebraskans won't be able to afford projects in the future.

After Schmit's comments, Scofield motioned to adjourn.

Official credits university for Lincoln's high number of fast-growth businesses

By Jennifer O'Clka
Staff Reporter

A university official and a city planner agree that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has contributed to the high number of fast-growth companies in the city.

Robin Anderson, director of UNL's Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship, pointed to a recent article in INC., a national business publication, that rated Lincoln first nationally for fast-growth companies.

Lincoln also was rated eighth among booming cities overall. Las Vegas and Washington were first and second in that ranking.

Anderson said UNL impacts business growth by providing a "leading edge" in technology, resources and an educated work force.

The university also provides students with opportunities to excel in entrepreneurship, Anderson said.

He said that in the entrepreneurship center, he looks for students with "high potential" for success. Students can be from any UNL college, he said, but they have to be very interested in business.

The center offers seminars to Lincoln business owners, he said, and sponsors a mentor program, which pairs students with business owners.

In addition, the center sponsors the NU Entrepreneurial Society and Students in Free Enterprise.

The center also helps potential entrepreneurs make contacts with those who can provide money to start enterprises.

Kent Morgan, assistant director of the City/County Planning Department, said UNL stimulates growth by pro-

viding services and ideas that can lead to spin-off companies. Morgan said he could not give a specific example of such a company.

Morgan said Lincoln benefits more from having a university than cities that exist only because of universities and those that are so big they are dominated by other industries. Lincoln is a "legitimate city" that is not too big to capture benefits from the university, Morgan said.

Anderson said Nebraska has a tradition of people who are willing to do new things and accept challenges.

Some of this entrepreneurship may have been repressed in the past by a lack of financing from conservative banking and fears of failure, Morgan said, but overall the state has a good entrepreneurial environment.

Service industries, which have grown nationwide, also have proliferated in Lincoln. He said an example of this is Lincoln's medical care industry, consisting of three major hospitals, which caters to people all across the state.

Lincoln has a fairly steady employment rate because it doesn't rely on only one business, he said. And Lincoln's population has increased consistently, Morgan said.

"We have a good quality of life in Lincoln to attract people," he said.

Morgan said he doesn't think businesses moving from the downtown area will have any effect on Lincoln's top ranking.

He said office space in the downtown area has grown slightly and he thinks many other opportunities for business expansion exist within the city.

Budget

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State Sen. Dennis Baack of Kimball, the amendment's sponsor, said the money is needed because of an erosion of funds for the program.

The program is valuable, Baack said, because many rural communities cannot find doctors.

"This problem is becoming even more acute," he said.

About 62 percent of foundation graduates practice in rural Nebraska and 90 percent of the graduates stay in Nebraska, he said.

Baack said the program is not in competition with UNMC, but rather is a complement to the medical center.

Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton said the amendment is "very, very important" in keeping the foundation going.

"There's general concern about the future of rural medicine," Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton said, and trying to attract doctors is difficult.

The problem will "escalate if we don't do something to respond," he said.

Sen. Gary Hannibal of Omaha was against the amendment, however, and said the issue is not that Nebraska needs more rural doctors.

The issue, he said, is who should contribute to the foundation. The Legislature now pays the stipends for the foundation's interns, Hannibal said.

The amendment would have the Legislature paying the program's administrative costs, too, which would be a "step too far," he said.

Although financing for the program has decreased, it is because Lincoln hospitals are "dropping their support," he said.

Lincoln hospitals benefit from the program, too, he said, and should be able to pay some of the cost.

"It's going beyond what I think is reasonable for the state to pick up all these funds," Hannibal said.

Baack said the program needs to be continued even if the Legislature has to pay more.

"Health care and rural health care is going to become a major issue in this state," Baack said.

After senators passed an amendment giving the Antique Farm Machinery Commission \$5,000 to help house equipment, Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood proposed giving \$190,000 to start designs for a new headquarters to an agriculture and research center of the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Mead. But the amendment failed 13-4.

Schmit said that after the antique machinery amendment passed, his didn't "have much chance" because senators had just given their annual appropriation to agriculture.

"Timing is everything on this floor," Schmit said. "Notwithstanding all the rhetoric we hear... agriculture is still business to Nebraska."

The total cost for the building would be about \$2.8 million, Schmit said.

but "there is a very real need here." Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron supported the amendment.

"Everything that supports agriculture fits together," Coordsen said. The \$190,000 would provide "seed money" for the start of the building.

Schmit said that although he knows state funds are limited, he hoped senators would "vote as your conscience dictates."

The Legislature did adopt another Schmit amendment 31-0 before the bill was advanced Thursday afternoon. It would appropriate \$24,100 for a counselor at Nebraska Indian Community College in Winnebago.

The counselor would encourage students there to attend four-year colleges, Schmit said.

Sen. Frank Korshoj of Herman supported the amendment, saying the program would help develop leaders in American Indian communities.

"I don't know how we could turn down such a small amount of money for the good it could do," Korshoj said.



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REPORT

Beginning midnight Wednesday, March 14.

3:47 a.m. -- Student illness reported, 6000 building, Selleck Residence Hall, student refused medical treatment.

9:49 a.m. -- Student illness reported, Biochemistry Hall, East Campus, student transported to Bryan Memorial Hospital.

1:02 p.m. -- Car tire cut and door scraped, Area 2 parking lot, 1640

Y St., \$90.
3:48 p.m. -- Four car hubcaps reported stolen, Area 3 parking lot, 14th and New Hampshire streets, \$210.

4:48 p.m. -- Two-car, non-injury accident, Nebraska Union meter lot, \$400.

5:09 p.m. -- Car top front fender reported dented, 10th Street and Avery Avenue, \$50.

5:36 p.m. -- Windshield wiper reported bent, Area 1 parking lot, 19th and Vine streets, \$20.

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Worship Services</h1>		
<p>University Lutheran Chapel 1510 Q St. LC-MS Sunday 9:00 AM, 11:00AM</p>	<p>Indian Hills Church 1000 S. 84th St. Sunday 9:30 AM 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Lincoln Church of Christ 820 N. 56th St. Sunday 8:30 AM 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM</p>
<p>St. Mark's on the Campus (Episcopal) 1309 R Street Sun. 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM</p>	<p>First Church of the Nazarene 1901 S. 70th Sun. Worship Service 10:50 AM Sun. Parish Service 9:45 AM "Our church can be your home"</p>	<p>Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 63rd & X Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday at 6:00 PM Phone: 464-2706 Ecumenical Patriarchate</p>
<p>ELCA Lutheran Student Center 535 N. 16th St. Sunday 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM Wednesday 9:00 PM</p>	<p>Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 44th & South Wed. Prayer Service 7:30 PM Sunday Church School 9:45 AM Sunday Worship 11:00 AM</p>	<p>If interested in being included in this directory, please contact Jim at the Daily Nebraskan. 472-2589</p>
<p>CORNERSTONE UMHE 640 N. 16th Street Sun. Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>You have ended your search for a friendly church. All Nations Church of the Lord Jesus Christ 2625 N. 27th St. 467-1339/464-1709 Sun. 12:00 P.M.</p>	
<p>St. Tikhon Russian Orthodox Church 1319 S. 11th St. Vespers: Sat. 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy: Sun. 10:00AM Everyone Welcome</p>	<p>Allon Chapel Seventh Day Adventist Church 2301 Y St. Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 PM Sabbath School 9:15 AM Sabbath Worship 11:00 AM</p>	

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