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WEATHER		INDEX	
Thursday, cloudy, windy and cold, 40 percent chance of light snow, high around 40, northeast wind 15-25 miles per hour. Thursday night, partly cloudy and cold, low around 20. Friday, partly cloudy and cold, high around 40.			
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Last-minute amendment strips restructuring bill

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter
and Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

In a last-minute compromise, state senators on Wednesday gutted a bill to implement higher education restructuring and instead advanced a constitutional amendment to give the present coordinating commission more authority.

The Legislature also advanced to final reading LR239CA, the legislation to create a Board of Regents for Nebraska Higher Education.

LB1141 was intended as legislation to implement LR239CA, which would abolish the current NU Board of Regents and Nebraska State College Board of Trustees. LB1141 called for creation of a board of trustees for each university and state college in Nebraska and a Board of Regents for Nebraska Higher Education.



Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly successfully proposed an amendment to LB1141 which strips the bill of its original form. The amendment would give the present Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education the power of coordination of programs and academic activities and budget submission.

The commission now has no binding authority and serves as an advisory board. Warner's amendment passed 33-3.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward said he supported giving the commission more power because the body now is like a "French poodle with no teeth guarding the Brinks Bank."

The amendment, not only "recognizes that this body is not ready to go whole hog with (LR)239(CA)," Moore said, but the proposal also "gives some fangs to the poodle guarding the bank."

Warner, one of the sponsors of LB1141 and LR239CA, said his amendment would give higher education restructuring more of a chance on final reading to get the necessary 30 votes for placement of the proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

The bill, as amended, passed to final reading

37-6.

The proposed coordinating commission under LB1141 would be composed of 11 members who would be appointed by the governor and approved by a majority of the Legislature. Six of the members would be chosen from six districts of about equal population and five would be chosen on a statewide basis.

The commission would be established on Jan. 1, 1992.

Another sponsor of the bills to restructure higher education, Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, failed in an attempt to delay consideration on LR239CA until April 9.

In proposing the motion, Withem said he wanted to "get a sense of where the body wants to go with this legislation."

Withem said he would like to see if senators wanted to consider the constitutional amendment or if they wanted to study it longer.

The Legislature hasn't really "caught on fire" over the issue, Withem said.

One reason could be that the present "Board of Regents has gone at least two months without doing anything stupid," Withem said.

Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron said senators should not bracket the constitutional amend-

ment and should address the subject because that is what taxpayers want them to do.

"If we were paid by our productivity, we would owe the taxpayers money because of the last several days. Let's earn the money we are making and get something done," Scofield said.

It is important to put LR239CA on the ballot so that the people across the state can voice their opinions, Scofield said.

Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton spoke in favor of the motion to delay consideration.

Johnson said "support for this bill has not gelled."

"What does this bill do to improve education for students?" he asked.

Scofield said the proposal is good for students -- they need coordination between the states' campuses for things like transfer credits, and non-traditional students need programs across the state because they have families and jobs and can't easily move from Kearney to Lincoln, for example.

Nebraska will lose students to other states if it does not offer what they need, she said, which is one reason for the state's "brain drain."

Victoria Ayotte contributed to this story.

Orr urges state senators to sustain budget vetoes

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

Gov. Kay Orr, in urging senators to "say NO to more state spending," Wednesday night vetoed more than \$11 million in new spending programs.

The vetoes included several university appropriations: \$900,000 for greenhouse renovation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus; \$122,085 in 1989-90 and \$172,853 in 1990-91 for the Lincoln Medical Education Foundation Family Practice Program; \$24,000, half the amount requested for a chinch bug specialist; \$37,163, half the amount for a poultry veterinarian; and \$25,000, half the amount for a potato specialist.

The governor signed the deficit appropriations bill, LB1031, but vetoed \$921,785 for 1989-90 and about \$5 million for 1990-91.

The bill does provide \$350,000 for instructional equipment to the College of Engineering and Technology in 1989-90 and \$525,000 in 1990-91.

The regents also will receive \$1 million for health insurance in 1989-90 and \$1.9 million in 1990-91. About \$1 million in 1989-90 and \$1.3 million in 1990-91 was appropriated for NU's retirement program.

Orr vetoed LB163, a bill to provide a comprehensive solid waste reduction and recycling plan, and provide for research and grants to local governments to help them license their landfills.

LB520, a bill for a nursing scholarship incentive fund, had \$50,563 vetoed and \$30,000 retained. Orr said in a letter to the NU Board of Regents that the Scholarship Assistance Program could finance the scholarship program.

ASUN passes bill to ban library smoking

From Staff Reports

After a filibuster lasting almost half an hour, student leaders passed a bill urging university administrators to ban smoking in Love Library.

In the last meeting of this year's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Senate, members acted on Government Bill 9, which was tabled at the last meeting.

ASUN President Bryan Hill, who proposed the bill, said smoke in the library disrupts studying by non-smokers because air from the smoking area travels through the entire

Orr signed LB260, which calls for a tax on marijuana and controlled substances.

She also signed LB1220, to provide financing for renovation of the Eppley Science Hall at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She vetoed appropriations of about \$1.3 million for the hall, but retained \$475,000 of the funds.

Orr vetoed LB898e, which would require \$4.3 million in state funds during the next four years for development of a Trailside Complex proposed as a branch of the University of Nebraska State Museum. The bill also would appropriate \$190,000 for planning a public events center and headquarters building at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center at Mead.

"Both the Trailside Complex and the Mead headquarters building are worthy projects. . . . However . . . I do not believe that we can responsibly commit money for these projects at this time," Orr said in a letter to senators.

The governor gave a summary of reasons for the vetoes in the statement. The \$900,000 for greenhouse repair was vetoed because the project was fourteenth on the NU Board of Regents' priority list of 14 capital construction projects.

According to the summary, Orr partially vetoed funds for the medical foundation's family practice program, because the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Lincoln hospitals have agreed to provide additional funds to cover the administrative costs.

The governor said the university should reallocate its existing funds to compensate for the partial vetoes of

See VETOES on 2



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

A pledge of thanks

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne thanks Gov. Kay Orr Wednesday morning for her support of the third annual Drug-Free Pledge to be held at halftime of the Nebraska spring football game on April 28th. Osborne, Orr and Don Benning, an assistant for Omaha Public Schools, spoke about the pledge in the South Stadium lounge.

Delay tactics kill abortion bill

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

Near 11:30 Wednesday night, Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha conceded the defeat of his bill to require informed consent and a 24-hour waiting period before performing an abortion.

"We lost this game," Lindsay said, referring to the successful filibuster maneuvers used by senators opposed to LB854.

Wednesday was the last day to advance bills from select file to final reading. Unless a senator would be successful today in getting the 30 votes needed to overrule the speaker's agenda and suspend the rules, the bill will not come up again.

Senators began debate on LB854 at about 7 p.m. with a motion by Sen. David Bernard-Stevens of North Platte to postpone the bill until April 9,

1990.

Bernard-Stevens then amended his motion to postpone the bill until April 10.

He said the motion pending Wednesday to suspend the rules and advance the bill to final reading without further amendments or any debate was "anti-democratic."

On Tuesday, the Legislature advanced to select file a package of nine bills, including the informed consent bill, without debate.

Sen. Dianna Schimek of Lincoln said it would "make a mockery of the legislative process" to place the bill on final reading without debate or amendments.

"How do we know the facts in this issue unless we discuss it," she said.

The Bernard-Stevens motion to postpone failed 8-31.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said a provision of the bill which requires women to be informed of the abortion procedure would be as "gruesome, (and) as difficult as possible," for the woman.

He compared the proposed description of the abortion procedure to that

of a dentist explaining to a patient the procedure for removing a tooth.

Chambers said the description could be designed to frighten the patient away.

Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron told senators "to take this bill out and show it to the women in this state."

"I think this bill really says you don't trust women," she said.

"It's unfortunate that this bill won't be considered, won't be voted on this year," said Sen. James McFarland of Lincoln, in response to the numerous motions that were offered by senators trying to delay the bill.

McFarland said the "vast majority" of abortions are for "birth control reasons," because the woman doesn't want to interrupt her career or her college training, or for fear of disapproving parents.

"Yes, you might have to wait overnight," Lindsay said. "But for a decision that's going to affect you for the rest of your life, maybe that's important."

The Legislature voted to adjourn, 27-11, at about 11:30 p.m.

