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WEATHER

Thursday, partly sunny and warmer, high around 55, south wind 10-20 miles per hour. Thursday night, 30 percent chance of rain after midnight, low 35-40. Friday, considerable cloudiness, 40 percent chance of rain, high 55-60.

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Restructuring plan satisfies regents, senator

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

Two members of the NU Board of Regents and a state senator said they are satisfied with the restructuring plan for post-secondary education that the Nebraska Legislature adopted earlier this week.

Senators passed legislation Monday which requires a constitutional amendment to create a more powerful Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Originally, senators had considered a proposal that would have abandoned the current NU Board of Regents and State College Board of Trustees.

Those boards would have been replaced by separate boards of trustees at each of the state colleges and universities.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly said he preferred the original concept, but thinks the current proposal will bring efficiency to education in the state.

Warner said the adopted proposal should be more attractive to regents, and he is optimistic about its chances for approval in November.

Don Blank, chairman of the regents, also said he is satisfied with the final proposal.

"It's kind of nagging that this happened so quickly," Blank said. "It would have been nice to go the normal route with public hear-

ings and media scrutiny and student and faculty input and the whole bit."

But considering senators' time constraint, Blank said he is "comfortable" with the proposal that passed.

Blank, who is from McCook, said he and several others worked last weekend with Warner and Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion to clarify differences between coordination and governance of education in the state.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha called the legislation "a step in the right direction."

Skrupa said the proposal that would have replaced the existing boards of regents and trustees with one board of trustees for each university and state college would not have been workable.

Still, Skrupa said she has some questions about the proposed changes.

Although nothing has been scheduled, Skrupa said she hopes the regents will be able to meet with Warner to go over the changes "with a fine tooth comb."

Warner was responsible for the legislation that added provisions to grant the coordinating commission budget authority and coordinating power.

Skrupa also said she was disappointed that senators moved so quickly to adopt the changes. The public did not have a chance to comment on them, she said.

Gosch disappointed by legislation, will delay efforts for official vote

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

The newly elected ASUN president said he will wait to see how LB1141 is received before resuming efforts to get a student regent vote.

Phil Gosch, who took over as president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Wednesday night, said he was disappointed by the "hasty action" of the Nebraska Legislature during the final days of the session.

"It definitely dealt the student regent

vote a blow for the immediate time," Gosch said.

Because state senators overhauled the original higher education restructuring plan, Gosch said, he is unsure what action to pursue next.

Senators voted Monday to place LB1141, which had been transformed from its original version last week, on the November ballot.

LB1141 was intended as implementing legislation to LR239CA, which would have

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"A constitutional amendment is big time," Skrupa said. "If it's approved, it's pretty much etched in stone."

Skrupa said now that the legislation has been passed, she hopes the University of Nebraska presidential search can be resumed soon to ease time constraints on Martin Massengale, who has been serving as both interim NU president and University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor.

The regents delayed the search for the NU president last November.

Not many officials would have been able to perform both positions for as long as he has, she said.

Blank said the regents will discuss resuming the presidential search at their meeting April 21, but it's still too early to tell how long it will be before the next NU president will take office.



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

D. Kirk Darnell is sworn in as the 1990-91 ASUN graduate studies senator at the Wick Alumni Center on Wednesday night. ASUN President Phil Gosch, other senators and student court members also were sworn in.

Regents to consider fighting words policy for code of conduct

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators have completed a revision of the student code of conduct, which includes a fighting words policy.

Students and faculty now will have the opportunity to read the new code before the NU Board of Regents decides on its adoption.

The policy would make certain language -- so-called fighting words -- punishable by penalties under the UNL Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

The policy defines fighting words as "those personally abusive epithets of a lewd, obscene, vulgar, profane, defamatory, insulting or fighting nature which, when directly addressed to a person, are by their very utterance in the context used and as a matter of common knowledge likely to incite an immediate breach of the peace, whether or not they actually do so."

The policy goes on to state that, "such words include those terms widely recognized to be derogatory references to race, sex, national origin, religion, disability or other individual characteristics."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the revision will be presented to the judicial board in the next two weeks.

Griesen said the meeting is designed to get input on the proposed fighting words change in the code, included under the misconduct section of the code.

He said he will meet with various faculty and staff members and discuss the new policy with students before asking for approval of the code. Changes could be made in the final draft of the proposed code if there is a significant amount of concern expressed with the current draft, he said.

Richard Woods, NU vice president and general counsel, Kathy Austin, director of the Student Judicial Affairs Office, and Griesen drafted the code of conduct revision. Griesen said the main difference between the cur-

rent code of conduct and the revision is that the new version is "more explicit."

The current code has 12 general points, and the new version cites specific instances of violation. The new misconduct section lists acts such as gambling, property damage, misuse of computers and failure to report fire.

Griesen said he hopes to present the code to the regents in June and have the code in place by the beginning of the fall semester.

First, the code would have to be approved by UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale.

Griesen said it is important to present the proposal to students before the end of the spring semester because "I don't want to eliminate student input on the code of conduct to the board."

He said the code "needs to be discussed thoroughly in the academic community."

Students and faculty members who have come into Griesen's office to talk with him about the fighting words policy have "typically been responding to newspaper articles" and "haven't had the benefit" of reading the exact wording of the policy, he said.

Many of these people are against the code at first because they perceive it as an "inappropriate suppression of freedom of expression," he said.

But there are "constraints on freedom of expression now -- the classic being that you can't yell 'fire' in a crowded theater," he said.

He said every example he has heard of what others think would be a violation are things that "wouldn't be covered under this policy."

"It's a very, very limited policy," Griesen said. "We walked a very tight line."

The policy would indicate to students that they "should be held accountable" for using words that provoke violence, he said.

Because of the policy's narrow scope and the possible difficulty in proving violations, Griesen said, he wouldn't expect to see many cases as a result of the policy.

Write-in senator fights for ASUN seat

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

When Sandy Haughton wrote in her name for Association of Students of the University of Nebraska senator from the Division of Continuing Studies on March 14, she said she didn't expect to win.

Then she saw the election results the next day and her name was listed as the winner -- with one vote.

The Division of Continuing Studies was given a senatorial seat for the first time this year because students in it now pay fees.

No student from continuing studies ran on the ASUN ballot, so a write-in candidate was the only option for voters.

Haughton, a junior marketing major, said she didn't know anyone who wanted the job, so she chose herself.

"I didn't know anyone better for the job," she said. "I was amazed that I won."

Haughton said she decided to accept the position and later was sent a

letter from ASUN stating that she was not eligible to be a senator because she did not carry 12 credit hours of classes. ASUN's constitution states that senators must carry a minimum of 12 hours.

Haughton said she takes six hours. Continuing studies students have full-time jobs and take night classes, so it would be almost impossible to carry 12 hours as a continuing studies student and also serve as a senator, she said.

Students doing that would have to spend four nights a week in class and then could miss the weekly ASUN meetings, she said.

"I don't think they put a lot of thought into what they should expect from a Division of Continuing Studies student," Haughton said.

She said that because the continuing studies senator is a new position, "they really didn't have any idea what Division of Continuing Studies students do."

Haughton said she didn't give up after receiving the letter.

Phil Gosch, ASUN president, is working on a petition which would exempt Haughton from the requirement and allow her to serve on ASUN next year.

He said he will file the petition Monday or Tuesday with the student court. If the court approves the petition, Haughton could be seated as the Division of Continuing Studies senator by April 25.

"Although the constitution is very specific..." Gosch said, "I think there are some extenuating circumstances for Division of Continuing Studies students."

"The college deserves representation," Gosch said.

He said he hopes Haughton will be allowed to serve as a senator.

Haughton said she has developed a "greater appreciation" for a senatorial position because she has had to "work for it."

"If I wouldn't have questioned authority then this probably wouldn't have been fixed," she said. "It makes it worth more."