

## Regents

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cation has been a higher priority in the Legislature this year than in the past.

Restructuring proposals and the budget have put the NU Board of Regents in the spotlight, Welch said, which may have contributed to the increase in candidates.

She said the firing of former NU President Ronald Roskens also may have contributed to interest in the board.

Robert Sittig, UNL professor of political science, said usually only two to three candidates run in each district. In 1984, the last time seats in Lancaster and Douglas counties were up for election, three candidates ran in each race.

According to statistics from a report by Welch and Robert Miewald, UNL professor of political science, the average number of candidates running in primary elections between 1950 and 1985 was 3.8.

Sittig said many candidates are running this year probably because incumbents Donald Fricke of Lincoln and Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn are not running.

Incumbent regents are "relatively hard to beat . . ." Sittig said.

According to Miewald and Welch's report, 72 percent of incumbents running for re-election between 1950 and 1985 won in general elections. That is a lower percentage than incumbents for the Nebraska Legislature, however. About 90 percent of incumbents in the Legislature win re-elections, the report showed.

Since 1986, only one of six regents who ran for re-election was defeated. In only two of those six races did more than two candidates run, while in two races the incumbent ran unopposed.

The number of candidates and the amount spent campaigning in regents elections are higher than for other elected boards, Sittig said.

Miewald and Welch's report showed that in the 1982 and 1984 regent elections, candidates spent more than \$20,000 campaigning, even though regents are not paid.

## Powell

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Q2: Powell said he thinks students should get a vote on governing boards.

A voting student provides an important form of communication, Powell said. One student should represent the system, he said. Students should choose for themselves how the system would work, such as deciding which campus would send a student representative.

One problem, though, is the "apathy that students have about voting and about politics," he said.

Q3: The regents must scrutinize the university

budget to determine where costs can be cut, Powell said.

"We need to find alternative sources of funding higher education instead of relying so heavily on tax dollars," he said.

Powell said he supports finding private sources to finance instructional equipment at UNL.

"The movement from tax dollars would effectively slow down the cost to the student," he said.

Powell said he supports an endowment fund for parking. With the fund, students and faculty members pay for parking in some lots, such as those that are farther from campus. It would be a step in the right direction to reduce parking costs, he said.

## McArthur

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more important issues, he said.

McArthur said he supports giving the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education more power and spelling out the regents' powers.

Q2: McArthur said he supports giving students voting power.

He said he disagrees with those who say students are only worried about the costs of textbooks and tuition.

"The concerns that a student regent brings to the board are necessary . . . in order to get true

representation, in order to get the board to accurately reflect the university," he said.

Q3: McArthur said he would have to ask others to find out how to keep higher education costs affordable.

Fees must be kept down, McArthur said, because the university loses students who cannot afford increases.


"That's no way to run a university," he said, "to keep throwing people out because of money."

But to maintain a quality university in the future, he said, students may have to pay higher tuition.

"If I could pay less, but the university education would not be quite as good, I would be against it," he said.

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