

Widmayer

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campus in the university, state college and community college systems.

Within the NU system, the report recommends that UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney raise admissions standards. It also calls for the campuses to eliminate remedial education programs; those programs, it says, should be handled at the state and community colleges.

The report called the University of Nebraska Medical Center "a leader in health-related research" and said that no program changes were needed.

Gosch said the report's goals for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are reasonable.

"I think our major institutions' approach of taking anybody and ev-

erybody" is obsolete, he said. "Maybe we're at a point where that should be reconsidered."

Blank said the regents have been working on raising admissions standards. A continual problem has been to become more selective while not blocking Nebraska students from Nebraska colleges, he said.

Admissions standards should not be set so high that students are forced to leave the state, Blank said, especially in areas like architecture and dentistry, which are offered only at UNL.

Gosch expressed concern that the Widmayer consultants were giving UNO too much latitude.

While he agreed that some programs at UNO can support doctoral degrees, he said the report gives "more of a blank check" than a controlled role.



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk confers with Regent John Payne of Kearney at the regents' meeting Tuesday night in Varner Hall.

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Student regents differ on vote

By Jennifer O'Clka
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska student regents had varying opinions on the NU Board of Regents' vote for Martin Massengale as NU president, but agreed that the university should look to the future.

The regents Tuesday voted 5-3 to allow regents Chairman Don Blank of McCook to begin contract negotiations with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor and NU Interim President Massengale.

Mark Meyer, University of Nebraska Medical Center student regent, said he voted against Massengale because he felt he was not more qualified than the four external candidates selected by the search committee.

Contract

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will weigh in his decision, he said.

"I'm looking at the future of the university," Massengale said. "If everyone works together, the university has a great future."

The decision to offer Massengale the NU presidential position followed an 11-day period of turmoil.

On Nov. 9, the Presidential Search Committee forwarded a list of four external candidates with the provision that the board could consider any internal candidates.

During board interviews with the external candidates in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 11-12, Massengale was considered by the board and inter-

Senators

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time the board ousted Ronald Roskens as president.

Three senators said that the public has misunderstood and been confused by the search process.

Warner said what he has heard from citizens is "bewilderment at how a group of elected officials could act as they have for the last couple of years," from the time the board fired Roskens in the summer of 1989.

Sen. Merton Dierks of Ewing said the public is asking, "Why go through the process? They spent all this money on the search and all of a sudden, all the ones (candidates) chosen backed out."

Wehrbein said the public has some misconceptions and misunderstandings about the search process — the way it was conducted, what the emphasis was and the way the facts about it were brought out.

Warner said that the search process "seemed very reasonable and the other individuals I heard about were credible. I have no criticism about that. But what the board did after that was another story."

He said the Nebraska public is directing criticism against the board rather than the university.

But people outside the state, par-

ticularly in the academic community, are not making that distinction, Warner said.

"The actions of the regents in the last two years could adversely affect the university," he said.

The relationship between the Legislature and the university also has been damaged, Warner said.

"I never anticipate any sort of vindictiveness or retaliatory type of action," he said. "But enthusiasm for support of the university will be less."

The regents' actions possibly could have an adverse effect on any extra funding. But that may be a "moot point," Warner said, "because it's going to be a tight budget in any event."

Another effect of the regents' handling of the search, Warner said, is that "the regents strengthened significantly in the minds of the legislators the need for an effective, strong coordinating commission (for higher education)."

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, however, said that requests from the university will get "closer scrutiny because there won't be the trust level (between the Legislature and university) that ideally should be there."

Warner said there is "kind of a disillusionment" with the management of the university at the regent level.

"Maybe that's part of the prob-

lem," he said. "The regents were trying to be managers rather than policymakers."

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward said that if the university can "put it all together" before the budget process begins next spring, the Legislature's treatment of NU will be the same.

"There's not going to be any retribution because of Massengale's hiring," Moore said. "I believe we're above that."

"But if the university is not united in what it's saying and in its priorities ... the whole deck of cards will come tumbling down," he said, referring to each campus competing for "each piece of the pie."

The senators said the board's best course of action now is to "quit bickering and move on," in the words of Wehrbein.

Dierks said that what the board needs to do now is "take the reins and run. Back the man (Massengale) 400 percent and never look back. They need to be completely open with the public and the Legislature with what they are doing."

Moore said the board needs to "hire Massengale, let him do the job, don't second-guess him and stay out of the headlines."

"I hope it's over," he said. "The time has come to stop bleeding and move ahead."

Meyer said he thinks Massengale is a good person, but does not have as strong of an educational background as the other candidates. Also, he said he thinks Massengale does not have the leadership skills or assertive, positive outlook for the university that is needed for the job.

With any internal candidate who has worked for one campus, potential exists for bias against the other campuses, Meyer said.

"As much as I think Martin Massengale as a person would do everything in his power" not to be biased, this would be less likely with an external candidate, Meyer said.

He said Massengale will do a good job as president and all will do their best to work with him. But "the groundwork is laid for it not to be the easiest transition" into the presidency, Meyer

said.

Kelli Sears, University of Nebraska at Omaha student regent, said the decision has been made and the university will have to live with it.

"It's most important to focus on the future . . ." she said. This is because some faculty and administrators at UNMC, UNO and Kearney State College are not in favor of Massengale as president, she said.

Sears, who voted against Massengale, said this will not help Massengale's presidency because presidents usually are hired with the majority of faculty members and administrators in support.

"They rarely go in with the majority of faculty and administrators against them, and succeed," she said.

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