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Tuesday

WEATHER

Today, blustery and cold with a 60 percent chance of freezing rain or rain in the morning, precipitation changing to snow in the afternoon, temperatures in low to mid 30s. Tonight, evening flurries, then clearing and cold with temperatures in the mid teens. Wednesday, partly cloudy and cold, high in the mid 30s.

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Read any good books?

Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Kevin Kroon, a 1984 UNL graduate, browses for a bargain book at the Nebraska Bookstore Monday afternoon.

Officials say controversy is best forgotten

By Sara Bauder Schott
Senior Reporter

The controversy surrounding the selection of Martin Massengale as University of Nebraska president must be forgotten and the campuses must unite behind him, the presidents of NU's faculty senates said.

John Shroder, president of the University of Nebraska at Omaha faculty senate, said that if Massengale accepts the job of president, UNO faculty members will work closely with him.

Robert Young, president of the Kearney State College faculty senate, William Gust, president of the University of Nebraska Medical Center faculty senate, and James McShane, president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate, echoed those sentiments.

Massengale was selected in a 5-3 vote by the NU Board of Regents at a Nov. 20 meeting, but has not indicated whether he will accept the presidency. He and Don Blank, chairman of the NU Board of Regents, are negotiating a contract, which Blank said might be finished by midweek.

The faculty senates at UNO, UNMC and KSC, which will join the university system July 1, 1991, had opposed Massengale's selection.

The UNL senate had not opposed the action but had called for amended rules governing searches for any officer with systemwide academic responsibilities.

Shroder predicted that Massengale will work closely with the campuses, especially in light of the controversy surrounding his selection.

Massengale will need to find ways to help the campuses cooperate, Shroder said. Division among the branches of the university system has been a long-standing detriment to NU, he said, and Massengale will need to work with the campuses to get rid of those divisions.

McShane, speaking in an interview after the Nov. 20 meeting, predicted that division among the regents over the appointment will end and the board will "line up behind the president."

Young said the faculty at Kearney has not had much experience in dealing with Massengale because Kearney is not yet part of the university system.

But all the factions concerned with the selection of Massengale need to put their differences aside and work with him, Young said.

Gust said faculty members at his campus had had legitimate concerns about Massengale's appointment as interim president more than a year ago because of his connection to UNL.

But, after a year as interim president, Gust said, Massengale will have the perspective of someone responsible for the entire university system, not just one branch.

The concerns many faculty members had were about the search and not about Massengale, Gust said. Because the four candidates who had been recommended by the Presidential Search Committee withdrew from the race for president, Massengale got the job by default, Gust said.

However, now that the decision has been made, the university needs to move on and address other issues, he said.

Senators want NU to prepare for budget process

NU regents ponder effects of search

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

Two NU regents were optimistic that the board's handling of the presidential search would not affect relations between the university and the state Legislature, but a third regent said the university had lost respect.

Don Blank of McCook, chairman of the NU Board of Regents, said he had talked with some

Nebraska legislators and he didn't think there would be a problem with relations between NU and the Legislature.

"I think the majority of the legislators realize that a search like this is difficult," Blank said.

"We needed to find the best candidate possible (for the NU presidency)," he said. He and the board "kept a finger on the pulse of Nebraska," but had to make a difficult decision.

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

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward had said that if the university can "put it all together" before the budget process begins next spring, the Leg-

See REGENTS on 3

Watchdog student group shifts focus

By Jennifer O'Cilka
Senior Reporter

Some members of a group formed to make student government more accountable say the focus of their organization has changed.

Members of the Alternative Candidate Resource Association said the group formed last spring to hold the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska accountable to students and to provide information and advice to potential ASUN candidates.

ACRA member Chris Potter said the group was started to provide resources for potential ASUN candidates who otherwise might not have the chance to run for office.

The group tried to develop ways to raise and distribute money among potential candidates,

he said. But members could not decide on an objective distribution method.

"Now, we're sort of purely an information resource," Potter said. The group will offer advice to any ASUN candidate.

Jeremy Felker, a political science major and ACRA member, said that when ACRA was formed, members wanted to inform students about how their representatives were voting and when their senators were absent from meetings.

"Our views at the beginning were that we felt as though ASUN was not being very representative of their constituents, and we didn't know how ASUN was voting on things, what the senators stood on," he said.

Felker said the group wanted to inform students about the "ins and outs" of ASUN: how to get involved, when committee meet-

ings were and how the senate was acting on issues.

The group decided that the best way to do that was to videotape meetings, he said.

Scott Cunningham, ACRA's director of public information and a Teachers College student, said the meetings now are broadcast on the Government Educational Access channel, cable Channel 5.

Felker said that once the six-member group devoted its time to covering the meetings, it did not have time for other activities.

The group hoped to put out a publication that included the voting and attendance records of senators, Felker said, but the group needed more members and money.

Cunningham said watching ASUN changed

See ACRA on 3

Two environmental classes to be offered

By Cris Wildhagen
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will be able to augment their knowledge of the environment next semester when two courses are added to the curriculum.

A geography class will tackle environmental issues and a sociology class will look at the relationship between humans and the environment, said Jeanne Kay, chairwoman of the geography department.

Geography 181, a cooperative effort between the College of Agriculture and the College of Arts and Sciences, is a pilot project for an interdepart-

mental general liberal education course, Kay said.

Faculty members from the biology, sociology, psychology, geography and agriculture departments will contribute to the three-credit-hour course, she said. A committee of faculty members from those departments will submit a proposal to the university curriculum board for approval next spring.

If the course passes the board, it will become the introductory course for the environmental studies major by the spring of 1992, she said.

The course will be offered under the name "Quality of the Environment" next semester, Kay said. After

it passes the board, it will be called "Earth in Crisis," she said.

Two sections of 100 students each will be open.

The course will be open to all students and will cover six environmental issues, Kay said. Natural resource depletion, species extinction and air, water, waste and land issues will be discussed, she said.

Kay and David Lewis, an agronomy professor, will teach the class, but professors from other departments will contribute, Kay said.

Kay said a \$27,800 planning grant from New Partnerships in Agriculture and Education paid for media

supplies, teaching assistants for the class, and relief time for faculty members to plan the class.

The class has been planned since last spring. J. Allen Williams Jr., a sociology professor, said the university had wanted to add this type of class for some time.

"We need UNL students to be aware of the ecological problems and what they could do to stop them," Williams said.

A sociology class is being introduced in the spring under Special Topics 498 and 898. In the future, the class will be offered as "Environmental Sociology" in the bulletin.

Williams said he has been planning the class for three years. It received final approval by the curriculum board last spring, he said.

The class will outline issues dealing with the sociological impact of environmental change, Williams said.

Topics that will be addressed are the relationship between social and ecological systems, the relationship between population and natural resources in the environment, and the relationship between the socioeconomic system and the environment.

The three-credit-hour class will be taught by Williams. It is limited to 35 students, he said.