

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER

Today, a 70 percent chance of precipitation changing to snow. Highs in the lower- to mid- 30s with north winds from 10-15 mph. A 60-percent chance of snow tonight with 1-3 inches accumulation possible, low in the 20s. Partly cloudy Tuesday with the high in the low- to mid- 30s.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Regent denounces Allen's comments

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

Regent Robert Allen's statement concerning last year's dismissal of Ronald Roskens, former president of the University of Nebraska, has caused "unfortunate tension in the university," one regent said.

Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City said Allen of Hastings acted to further his own purposes and did not act in the interests of the university system.

She said Allen spoke out because "things didn't go his way." Allen voted against Martin Massengale, University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor and University of Nebraska president-elect, at the Nov. 20 regents' meeting.

Last week, Allen said he was influenced by Hoch and Massengale to vote for the dismissal of Roskens in July 1989.

Allen cited Roskens' lack of support of the regents as a reason for his dismissal. In particular, Allen said, Roskens failed to appear before a Nebraska Legislature committee when then-regents Chairman Hoch was testifying.

Allen called the reasons for Roskens' dismissal normal.

He said the national average for public presidents is 4 1/2 years, and after 10 years there is generally a change. Roskens had been NU president for 12 years.

Allen said Roskens had spoken to him about leaving NU.

"Having talked about leaving, that kind of puts you in the situation of a lame duck," Allen said.

Allen said he revealed his reasons for voting to fire Roskens now because the university is again in a state of transition.

Hoch said the process of removing Roskens was done in a closed regents' session that was supposed to be confidential.

Allen said he may face a personal interest lawsuit, but said, "I think the public have the right to know. I don't know how you can sue over normal process."

Massengale and Regents Chairman Don Blank of McCook declined to comment on the situation.

Richard Wood, NU general counsel, said he stands by his advice for the regents not to disclose their reasons for terminating Roskens.

Condoms in dorms possible by spring

By David Dalton
Staff Reporter

Condoms may be available in University of Nebraska-Lincoln residence halls as early as next spring, an official said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the issue is unresolved, but the UNL administration is willing to compromise with Residence Hall Association demands for greater condom availability.

"I don't think we're too far from a solution," he said.

Belise Draper, chairperson of RHA's Residence Enhancement Committee, agreed.

"If all goes as planned, we could see it as early as sometime next semester," Draper said.

However, Griesen said condom machines will not be installed in the dorms. He said other means of distribution are being considered.

Griesen said permanent machines are not being considered because 10-

and 12-year-olds use the halls during summer camps. And, he said, machines could taint UNL's image.

"We don't want to give the impression that the university promotes promiscuity," he said.

For now, Draper said, RHA is keeping quiet about the possibilities to avoid a proliferation of rumors.

"We want to make sure we have a concrete proposal before we begin advertising," she said.

Griesen said he wants to address concerns about student health. An estimated one in 500 college students nationwide carries the AIDS virus, he said.

Housing Director Doug Zatechka, however, questioned whether putting condoms in the dorms will help as much as proponents contend.

"How many people stop just before completing the act and run down the hallway to get one?" he said. "The experience of some schools has been

See CONDOMS on 8



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Searching for Christmas past

Pam Howard of Lincoln browses for Christmas gifts by an antique stained glass window at Conner's Architectural Antiques, 247 N. 8th St.

Regents postpone decision on revised budget request

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents postponed voting on a revised budget request for 1991-93 at its meeting Saturday.

The request included adding 75 faculty positions, continuing implementation of the educational telecommunications plan, adding to the administrative computer system by acquiring a more powerful mainframe computer, and working with higher

social security employer rates.

The educational enhancements would have totaled about \$8 million, the proposed telecommunications plan \$463,000, the administrative systems \$729,000, and the social security addition \$1 million.

Regents Chairman Don Blank of McCook supported the postponement, saying the board wants to work with senators and Gov.-elect Ben Nelson during the 1991 legislative session.

See BUDGET on 3

Scale-down legislation considered

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Reporter

One state senator may introduce legislation to scale down NU's central administration, but he said this was not spurred by the alleged violation of regents' policy by President-elect Martin Massengale.

"This is not a new idea. This is an idea I have been exploring in the past," said Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, chairman of the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee.

Withem denied that it was a knee-jerk reaction to the recent release of phone conversations taped in 1988 between then-regent candidate Robert Allen of Hastings and then-chancellor Massengale.

Allen had said Massengale gave him campaign advice, which violated regents' policy prohibiting NU administrators from participating in regents' campaigns.

Although his consideration of legislation was not a reaction to the release of the phone transcripts, Withem said, "hassles" over the presidential candidate selection and hiring led him to question whether a presidential position and central administration in general were necessary.

According to Withem, Massengale made references on the tapes to the "failings of central administration and what he considered failings with Ronald Roskens' leadership."

"I think that it's rather ironic that when Martin Massengale was (UNL) chancellor . . . that he was critical of central administration" and that now he is the leader of it.

Massengale was not available for comment.

Although Withem has not drawn up specific legislation, he said that he had been questioning the need for central administration even when Ronald Roskens was NU president. Roskens was fired in July 1989.

One impetus to considering a scaled-down central administration, Withem said, was the report given in 1989 by consultants studying the higher education system. Widmayer and Associates of Chicago released a report that called for restructuring higher education governance.

In addition to this, Withem said, the passage of an amendment strengthening the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education made it obvious that Nebraskans would like to see some restructuring of higher education.

Officials: Competitive peer groups beneficial

Editor's Note: This article is the last in a series examining UNL's peer group.

By Michael Ho
Staff Reporter

Several administrators differ over the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's true position within its peer group, but they agree that the group has served its purpose: to improve the quality of the university.

The peer group — Illinois, Iowa State, Maryland, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Purdue, Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin — is fair, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

UNL's below-average showing in faculty salaries and other areas is profound enough to discredit most peer-group criticism, he added.

"I dismiss it pretty readily, because I can

show that no matter which group we pick, we're behind" on faculty salaries, Griesen said.

In most statistical comparisons, UNL lands in the bottom three of its peer group. It is usually joined by the other two Big Eight schools in the peer group, Missouri and Iowa State.

Even so, Griesen said, it isn't fair to characterize the group as an "aspiration group."

However, some schools readily admit that peer groups are wish lists, not true groups of peers.

The University of Maryland's comparison group is called an "aspirational peer" list, said Linda Freeman, a spokeswoman for the university.

Maryland's five peer institutions — Cal-Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, Michigan, Minnesota and North Carolina — are not necessarily equals, but rather "schools we want to be like," she said.

Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs at UNL, said such aspirational lists serve a useful purpose.

"Frankly, the word 'aspiring' doesn't mean anything bad to me," Liberty said. "There's nothing wrong with aspiring to be better than you are."

Peer groups can't always be done by region, he said. They have to reflect competitiveness, he said.

"We're not competing against some regional group of institutions at all," Liberty said.

A similar line of thought led Iowa State to adopt its current peer group, called the "land-grant 11."

Like UNL, Iowa State defined its group in the mid-1980s, said Elizabeth Stanley, director of institutional research at ISU.

Before then, Iowa's state universities had been comparing themselves informally with neighboring states' schools.

But as times changed and the battle for faculty members became more heated, the universities in Iowa — including Iowa State — felt compelled to draw up new lists, Stanley said.

"We didn't feel that we were primarily

competing with institutions in the neighboring states," she said.

Their primary competition had become other institutions that, like ISU, were major land-grant research universities, she said.

All of Iowa State's current peer institutions are among the top 40 in research spending, except for Iowa State itself, which is 49th.

Liberty said being behind the midpoint of one's peer group is nothing to be ashamed of. "Not everyone can be above average," he said.

Schools that are behind in their groups should try to catch up to the other universities, he said, not reduce their standard of comparison.

Instead of lowering its sights, Liberty said, UNL chose to compete. That was the right choice, he added.

"I think that if we had a lower-level peer group, that wouldn't serve the institution very well at all," Liberty said.

But sometimes, schools have less ambitious

See PEER on 8

