

# Dean says UNL's advising sound, despite dissatisfaction elsewhere

By **Cris Wildhagen**  
Staff Reporter

Although some American universities are questioning the value of doctoral advisers, there have been few complaints about the quality of UNL advisers, one UNL official said.

"I'd like to believe that the quality of advising is excellent at the university," said Merlin Lawson, associate dean for graduate studies and assistant vice chancellor for research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

According to a study of dissertation practices at 40 U.S. universities by the Council of Graduate Schools, advising for graduate students is in poor shape.

The report's conclusions, published in a Jan. 16 Chronicle of Higher Education story, stated that many graduate students surveyed were dissatisfied with their advisers.

The report recommended that students be given better guidance in choosing advisers and that they meet regularly with advisers.

Recommendations for improvement also included providing periodic review of advisers and better adviser training.

At UNL, there are about 770 graduate faculty Fellows. Fellows can chair the supervisory committees that ad-

viser doctoral students. Normally four Fellows serve on each committee, with 340 graduate members on committees in all.

The committees advise about 1,350 doctoral-degree candidates. Each committee advises from one to seven students, depending on their doctoral program progress.

One UNL committee adviser did not agree with Lawson about the quality of doctoral advising.

Robert Brown, an educational psychology professor, said the committees could use some improvement.

"Generally, the advisers are interested in the students' welfare, but the faculty may not be good at advising," he said. "Just because you can do research does not mean you can advise students."

The Fellows counsel much the same way they were advised while doing their dissertations, Brown said, but each student has a different background. This means different consulting methods are needed, he said.

Lawson said the graduate Fellows are strictly reviewed before being chosen. Each person is nominated to serve on the graduate faculty. Nominees must have published a research topic of quality, possess scholarship and creativity and be a positive men-

tor to graduate students, he said.

After the review process, two-thirds of the graduate faculty in the nominee's field must approve the appointment, he said.

Brown said there should be some kind of proper training so the advisers can counsel the students adequately.

The committee usually meets only three times with the doctoral student, Brown said. The first meeting is to approve the course study for the student. It next meets to approve the dissertation topic, and it may not meet again until the student has finished the dissertation, he said.

During the period in which the student is working on the dissertation, the student meets one-on-one with a main adviser, who is on the committee, Brown said.

Lawson said the main purpose of requiring a dissertation is to demonstrate that the student is able to complete research of a topic. It usually takes two to three years for a student to complete a dissertation, he said.

It can be a frightening and awesome task that some students find difficult to complete, Lawson said.

Brown suggested that the committees get students involved in doing research before they begin their dissertation to make the task easier.

# Hispanic enrollment targeted

By **Julie Skar**  
Staff Reporter

A national report indicates Hispanics are "grossly underrepresented" at U.S. colleges and universities, but the president of the Mexican American Student Association says the group is doing all it can to raise those numbers at UNL.

For the 1990-91 school year, 280 of about 24,000 students who attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were Hispanic.

That number is up slightly from 255 Hispanic students in 1989-90.

Although Hispanics are underrepresented numerically, MASA President Blanca Ramirez said the group is working to encourage more Hispanic students to attend UNL and to help them become involved on campus.

Recently group members went to

South Sioux City to speak with high school students about coming to UNL.

"The idea is to have them come and visit the campus and help them prepare for college life," she said.

The recent national report, authored by the American Council of Education, revealed that although Hispanic college enrollment rose from 417,000 in 1978 to 680,000 in 1988, the increase is not in proportion to the fast growth of the Hispanic population.

The findings, which were included in a Chronicle of Higher Education story, stated that among all Hispanics aged 18 to 24, only 16 percent were enrolled in college in 1989.

Ramirez said Hispanic students need to realize that college is not as difficult as they may think, and students must be encouraged by their parents, teachers and school counselors.

MASA hopes to create a positive atmosphere at UNL by helping others learn about the Hispanic culture, she said.

Chicano Awareness Week is one of those introductions to the Hispanic way of life, she said. The awareness week, April 15-20, will provide students with the opportunity to discover positive aspects of the culture, Ramirez said. The week will include a luncheon, a dance, a fun run and possibly a book and craft sale.

Ramirez said that although the group is working toward more representation for Hispanic students at UNL, there still is much to be done.

The university needs to work with the administration and the educational department to produce teachers who are not only bilingual but who also are sensitive to the Hispanic students' and parents' needs, she said.

# Gulf

Continued from Page 1

sions than were flown against Japan in the final 14 months of World War II.

Most major bridges in the Kuwait region now have been destroyed or badly damaged, the command said, and the Iraqis have had to throw makeshift pontoon spans across rivers — new easy targets, said command spokesman Marine Maj. Gen. Robert Johnston.

Air strikes Sunday rocked Iraqi targets from Kuwait to Baghdad. Late in the afternoon, a missile — probably a U.S. cruise missile — slammed into downtown Baghdad, sending up a column of white smoke, according

to an Associated Press report from the Iraqi capital.

Fresh reports came in of air attacks on civilian vehicles on the road from Baghdad to Jordan. Egyptians arriving in Jordan said their bus was the only vehicle on the road when it was repeatedly machine-gunned by warplanes. One of their group was killed, they said.

Since early in the 18-day-old war, the rumble of distant B-52 strikes has been heard from across the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. The huge bombers have zeroed in particularly on the dug-in positions of the Republican Guard, the core of Iraq's defense of occupied Kuwait.

One of the eight-engine, \$55-million "Stratofortresses," headed back

from a bombing mission, crashed into the Indian Ocean late Saturday on its way to its base at Diego Garcia, a tiny atoll 2,000 miles southeast of the gulf.

The U.S. command did not say where the crash occurred or give details of the rescue of three crewmen. It said there was "no evidence that the aircraft went down as a result of hostile fire." Twenty-seven Americans are now missing in action in the gulf war.

American military sources say the Air Force has begun mounting "counter-Scud patrols," warplanes flying over areas where Iraq's ballistic missiles are believed based, ready to swoop down when a launch is detected on radar. One of the patrols apparently scored on Sunday.

# POLICE REPORT

**Beginning midnight Thursday, Jan. 31**

10:45 a.m. — Non-injury auto accident, 16th and W streets, \$550.

5:44 p.m. — UNL identification card stolen, Abel Residence Hall, \$7.

5:49 p.m. — Windshield wiper damaged, Abel Residence Hall fire lane, \$35.

7:41 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, Hamilton Residence Hall, \$535.

**Beginning midnight Friday, Feb. 1**

12:42 a.m. — Fire alarm glass broken, Abel Residence Hall, \$8.

10:34 a.m. — Construction site

tampered with, Walter Scott Engineering Center.

3:19 p.m. — Man taken to detoxification, 721 K St.

3:46 p.m. — Two-car non-injury accident, parking lot west of Selleck Residence Hall, \$500.

5:18 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, College of Business Administration, \$85.

10:45 p.m. — Stolen vehicle recovered, lot north of Military and Naval Science Building.

**Beginning midnight Saturday, Feb. 2**

12:17 a.m. — Motorcycle accident, man scraped hand, Sandoz Residence Hall parking lot.

2:08 a.m. — Man ticketed, reckless driving, 17th and O streets.

12:14 p.m. — Car scraped with key, 1548 Vine St., \$50.

12:14 p.m. — Car scraped with key, 1548 Vine St., \$30.

1:06 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, Henzlik Hall, \$105.

3:31 p.m. — Non-injury auto accident, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex parking lot, \$50.

4:47 p.m. — Stereo and amplifier stolen, 19th and R streets, \$770.

4:49 p.m. — Man arrested for indecent exposure, Love Library.

6:37 p.m. — Two hoagies, a half-hoogie, two bowls of soup, pasta and a garlic roll stolen from auto, \$21.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## UNL, UNMC professors get awards

Dr. James Armitage, a professor of medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Robert Audi, a professor of philosophy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, were named winners of the NU Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity.

The award is the highest honor the university gives to recognize faculty members' scholarship, research and artistic achievements. The awards carry \$3,500 stipends.

## Biologists to give presentation

Wildlife biologists Stuart Pechek and Marta McWhorter will address the Nebraska Wesleyan University Forum on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Lecture Hall B of the Olin Hall of Science, 50th Street and Saint Paul Avenue.

The presentation, sponsored by Environmental Action, a Wesleyan student organization, is free and open to the public.

The speakers will use a multimedia slide show to explore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## Physics seminar set for Thursday

Professor Dennis Alexander will give the third 1991 Department of Physics and Astronomy spring semester seminar on "Non-Linear Interactions With Aerosol Droplets."

The seminar will be presented in UNL's Brace Laboratory Auditorium at 4 p.m. Thursday.

## Chemistry conference at Hamilton Hall

John Connolly of the Solar Energy Research Institute will present a chemistry department seminar on Friday at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Room 112 of Hamilton Hall.

Connolly's topic is "Attempts to Mimic Photosynthetic Energy Transfer."

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