

Official: Proposal won't hurt UNL research

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

UNL research would not be significantly hindered if President Bush succeeds in reducing federal funds earmarked for college research, two university officials said.

"In terms of total amount (of money received), I don't think there would be a significant difference. It would be about an even situation, at least from an agricultural perspective," said Darrell Nelson, dean and director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agricultural Research Division.

Earmarked funds, which reached a record level of \$493 million last year, are appropriated for specific college research projects and have been criticized by the Bush administration, according to an article in the Feb. 27 Chronicle of Higher Education.

Nelson described the funds as the "prerogative of Congress."
He said the funds often are appropriated for political reasons by members of Congress in key committees for their states.

"That is not the case in Nebraska, though,"

he said.

Bill Splinter, interim vice chancellor for research at UNL, said there are two processes for obtaining federal money: Earmarking and competitive grants.

In the competitive grant process, he said, university officials submit proposals for available federal funds. The proposals then are ranked, and money is appropriated on the basis of the rankings.

Splinter said he thought "the faculty at UNL would generally support a reduction of earmarking so more money would be available for

competitive grants."

Some faculty members are concerned that big universities dominate the competitive grant process, he said, but "they would still rather have a chance to compete for funds than not to have any at all."

He said that since Nebraska had not significantly shared in earmarked funds in the past, the impact of reducing them would be slight.

Nelson agreed.

"It is a difficult issue, but I think we would be able to compete well (for grants)," he said.

Speaker addresses oppression

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

Women have been plagued by oppression in the law field, a law professor at West Virginia University told about 150 students Friday at the UNL College of Law.

Marie Ashe, a specialist in feminist writing that attempts to describe how women are suppressed, why women are subordinated and how that structure might be changed, said her work has stemmed from her experiences as a lawyer, a professor and a student.

As a student, Ashe said she was discouraged from becoming a defense attorney because she was a woman.

As a professor, Ashe said, she was refused a tenure-track job, and when she went to the University of West Virginia, she was the only woman faculty member.

As a lawyer, she said, she found the courts didn't address topics such as rape and domestic violence.

Ashe gave the example of a rape case in which the woman's defense was passing a polygraph test to prove she wasn't lying, an attitude that is a reflection of a culture that hadn't addressed such problems.

To illustrate the problems women have in the legal system and to parody the justice that is "embedded in Western culture," Ashe used the example of the biblical King Solomon.

In the King James Bible, King Solomon requests "an understanding heart to judge my people so I can discern from good and bad," Ashe said.

Solomon's first judgment after his request was granted dealt with two "harlots," Ashe said.

Both claimed the ownership of a child, so Solomon's first command was, "Bring me a sword," Ashe said.

When faced with the prospect of having the child divided, the "real" mother surrendered the child, being restrained by the "yearning of her bowels," Ashe said.

Questions from this biblical story are relevant to contemporary judicial cases, she said. But contrary to judicial opinions, mothers don't always have such yearnings, she said.

Ashe, a 1979 law graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, spoke at the UNL College of Law as part of "A Celebration of Women Law Students at Nebraska: The First 100 Years."

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Friday, March 1

9:36 a.m. — Accident, 16th and W streets parking lot, \$300.

11:22 a.m. — Hit-and-run accident, Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, 733 N. 16th St., \$700.

12:09 p.m. — Burglary, 50 compact discs taken, Abel Residence Hall, \$700.

12:11 p.m. — Bicycle taken, Hamilton Hall, \$475.

12:57 p.m. — Purse taken, Mabel Lee Hall, \$40.

1:49 p.m. — Cash taken, Oldfather Hall, \$22.

3:27 p.m. — Wallet taken, Henzlik Hall, \$10.

3:38 p.m. — Cash taken, Westbrook Music Building, \$9.

3:56 p.m. — Wallet taken, Lyman Hall, \$210.

4:11 p.m. — Wallet taken, Henzlik Hall, \$12.

5:18 p.m. — Wallet taken, Andrews Hall, \$41.

5:30 p.m. — Man hit head, transported to Lincoln General Hospital, Lied Center for Performing Arts.

5:34 p.m. — Television set taken from lounge, Abel Residence Hall, \$300.

5:43 p.m. — Sheet rock vandalized, Richards Hall, \$3.

Beginning midnight Saturday, March 2

12:28 a.m. — Man arrested for driving while intoxicated, 10th Street and Sun Valley Boulevard.

1:07 a.m. — Obscene phone calls, Selleck Residence Hall.

8:49 a.m. — Hit-and-run accident, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex parking lot, \$350.

12:57 p.m. — Bicycle taken, Nebraska State Fairgrounds Coliseum, \$850.

1 p.m. — Bicycle taken, Abel Residence Hall basement, \$120.

3:41 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, 15th Street between S and U streets, \$80.

4:02 p.m. — Convertible top cut, 10 cassette tapes taken, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex parking lot, \$1,500 damage, \$200 loss.

4:55 p.m. — Window broken, Varner Hall, unknown damage.

6:07 p.m. — Car taillights broken, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex parking lot, \$100.

9:51 p.m. — Illness, woman taken to Bryan Memorial Hospital, Lied Center for Performing Arts.

10:26 p.m. — Woman fell down stairs, Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Faculty members find it pays to research

By Kristie Coda
Staff Reporter

Research is paying off for more University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members this year, according to UNL research department figures.

The research department has seen a large jump in invention disclosures and patent applications in the past year. This year, 10 patent applications were filed, more than twice that of any previous year.

Henry Baumgarten, UNL interim associate vice chancellor for research, reported an increase in royalties in 1990, totaling \$116,000, up from \$86,000 in 1986.

"In one sense we're actually doing better than the figures," Baumgarten said. He said the university had a licensing agreement that has brought in income for the last 20 years. The agreement ran out in October, but "we've kept the same level of income," indicating increased output, he said.

Baumgarten said a lot of the new developments are in the biosciences. There are five Lincoln businesses the work of which is primarily based on technology coming out of UNL, he said.

The College of Business Administration also has a Center for Entrepreneurship that matches scientists from the research department with business students interested in marketing an invention, he said. These pairings have established local businesses such as Genotype, BioNebraska, Inc., and ENTRAC, Inc., all of which work with technology developed at UNL.

Programs such as these have been successful and offer an outlet for student interests and inventions, he said.

"They're young and they're eager and they're looking for openings," Baumgarten said.

Money generated from licensing and other agreements is returned to UNL's general fund, he said.

"Any monies we generate helps

the inventor, the department and the whole university," he said.

Baumgarten said increased research output is a national trend. He said UNL's production is about on par with other Big Eight schools.

"Most of the Big Eight schools are just like us," or only in the business for about five years, he said. Iowa State has been working on a technology transfer program for six years and finally has broken even this year, he said.

Of course, he said, "the private schools have been doing it for a long time."

Baumgarten said increased interest is one reason UNL has more inventions.

"I think it's more interest," he said. "We're bringing in a lot of young people. They tend to be fairly aggressive. They see the future."

Baumgarten said past success generates new interest.

"There's just no substitute for success," he said.

\$20,000 is considered substantial enough to consider the private donor, but each contract is different.

In each contract for spinoff companies, besides specifying the company's exclusive rights, royalty arrangements to the university also are specified.

Each contract is negotiated differently, Splinter said. Percentages of royalties range from 2 percent to 25 percent, averaging about 5 percent. The percentage of royalties depends on the market and if the product is expected to have a long market life, he said.

One successful example was a scours vaccine licensed to Norden Laboratories about 20 years ago. The university has received more than \$1 million in royalties on the project, he said.

Besides contributing royalties to the university, companies evolved from inventions developed at the University of Nebraska contribute to the community, Splinter said.

Spinoff companies stay in Nebraska and hire Nebraskans, he said.

"Eventually down the road," he said, "we might get to the point where we will have to import engineers."

Research

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research. But because the product was not closely related to its normal product line, Finnsugar and the three professors at the university who developed the patent formed a spinoff company, BioNebraska Inc., Splinter said.

If Finnsugar only had contributed a \$2,000 piece of equipment, he said, the university would not have felt obligated to give it the first chance of exclusive rights to the discoveries.

Normally, he said, anything above

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