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Search nears final stage; Massengale to narrow field, invite back top candidates

By Eric Snyder
Staff Reporter

The search for University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor is nearing an end, with NU President Martin Massengale inviting one or two candidates back to campus as early as next week, officials said.

Deanna Eversoll, secretary of the Academic Senate, said the search process is currently in a "holding pattern" until Massengale makes an announcement, but that she expects him to offer invitations to finalists soon.

J.B. Milliken, executive assistant to Massengale, said only one candidate may be asked to return.

"If he (Massengale) would invite one candidate, the implication would be that that candidate would be the top prospect," he said.

Massengale will select the chancellor, with approval required by the NU Board of Regents.

Regents Chairman Don Blank of McCook said the regents have made

no organized attempt to contact the four final candidates, but that they have received biographies of each.

Blank said that for many of the regents, and for Massengale, the procedure of appointing a chancellor is a first experience.

"There is no road map to help determine a time line for the process," he said. The pace of the decision will be "whatever Dr. Massengale is comfortable with."

Blank described the search process so far as having been "excellent."

A major factor throughout the selection process has been the stance of each candidate on the subject of minority and gender equality.

The finalists who earned the highest marks from the chancellor's commissions on the status of women and minorities were Graham Spanier, provost at Oregon State University, and Herman Lujan, vice provost at the University of Washington, members of those commissions said.

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U.S. District Court decision fails to define tenure rights

From Staff Reports

A recent U.S. District Court decision left unresolved the issue of whether tenured faculty members have rights beyond permanent employment.

"I find it unnecessary to address the arguments made concerning the nature of tenure and its relation to voting rights," District Court Judge Warren Urbom wrote in the decision, which was handed down Friday.

The judge ruled for the university in the case, against Bruce Erlich, an associate professor of English and modern languages. Urbom said the modern languages department did not deny Erlich due process when it voted to deny him voting privileges, leaving up in the air the larger issue of tenure rights.

Erlich has a one-third appointment in modern languages and a two-thirds appointment with the English department. The modern languages faculty voted in November 1988 to deny voting privileges to those members with less than half-time appointments. Erlich was the only faculty member affected.

The defendants in the case, the NU Board of Regents, argued that faculty participation rights within a department are not part of tenure rights, but are governed by the department.

UNL Academic Senate Secretary Deanna Eversoll said the faculty organization has taken no official position on whether tenure includes more than employment rights.

The Erlich case probably "wouldn't have gone to that level (District Court) unless there was an unclear line to be defined," Eversoll said.

Official says UNL libraries' space shortage 'critical'

By Steve Pearson
Staff Reporter

Space shortages in Love Library and the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery have reached crisis proportions, officials said.

George Neubert, director of the Sheldon Art Gallery, said Sheldon has had a space problem for quite some time.

"In 1980, the university and the Board of Regents conducted a study that declared a crisis and a need for expansion at Sheldon," he

said. "The collections have grown significantly since then. If it was a crisis in 1980, I don't know what you call it in 1991, worse."

Kent Hendrickson, dean of university libraries, called the situation at Love Library "fairly critical."

"We are already short on study space," he said. "In another five years, we will have a problem with shelving space."

Neubert said the current situation is dangerous for the collection and for educational opportunities.

"We are storing in areas that were not designed for storage. Most museums store in areas that are called non-sprinkling areas. We are storing in areas with sprinklers and cannot turn the sprinklers off because of fire codes," he said.

"We are storing a substantial portion of the permanent collection. Because of how crowded it is, it's not available for students."

Hendrickson said educational opportunities would be lost if Love Library expansion is not completed within five years.

"If the expansion is not complete by then, some of the collection will need to go into storage and more study areas will need to be converted into shelving," he said.

Both Neubert and Hendrickson said more space is the only viable solution to their problems.

The Sheldon expansion currently planned will address several pressing needs at the gallery, Neubert said.

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Shaun Sartin/ Daily Nebraskan

Tennis anyone?

Dan McLaughlin, head tennis coach for Mankato State, helps students at the Cornhusker Tennis Camp, which was held through Wednesday on campus.