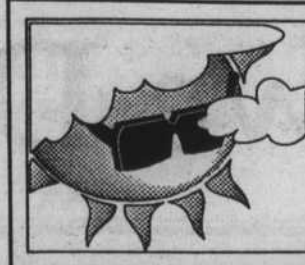


Daily Nebraskan



TODAY'S WEATHER

80/45

Today, mostly sunny. Tonight, mostly clear and cooler. Thursday, 20 percent chance of afternoon showers. High in the 70s.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Rule search sparked by suggested budget cuts

By Wendy Navratil
Senior Reporter

An exhaustive search into University of Nebraska bylaws and rules will determine whether the UNL budget reduction process and the emerging recommendations violate any institutional policy, NU general counsel Richard Wood said.

UNL Interim Chancellor Jack Goebel, NU President Martin Massengale, Wood and other administrators received a letter dated Sept. 25 from the American Association of University Professors. The letter outlined possible violations of UNL bylaws, the Bylaws of the NU Board of Regents and AAUP regulations as a result of the budget-cutting process.

"I don't want to say I think it will be OK," Wood said. "I'm going to look it over carefully from the standpoint of the legal issues raised."

In the letter, AAUP supported criticism raised by its UNL chapter regarding the proposed cuts of about 45 faculty positions, about half of which are tenured or tenure-track positions. The letter also supported criticism of the proposed elimination of the speech communication and classics departments.

Budget reduction proposals were made in response to a mandate by the Nebraska Legislature that UNL cut its budget by 2 percent this year and by 1 percent next year.

Wood said no final determinations to discontinue programs or eliminate departments have been made.

"We're in the very preliminary stages of the process. There has been no decision that any program or department will be cut," Wood said.

But if faculty cuts are made, he said, proper procedures for faculty due process, much like those required by the AAUP Statement of Principles, would be observed.

"Procedures are required to accord due process to affected faculty members," Wood said. "That's something I will want to be sure takes place."

The AAUP letter stated that the Bylaws of the NU Board of Regents indicates that tenured faculty can be terminated if their fitness is questioned, if the institution has demonstrated financial exigency or in the case of a "bona fide discontinuance of a program or department."

Wood said financial exigency can be defined as a state of immediate financial emergency.

"The process that we're going through now of reducing budgets and discontinuing programs is not mandated by financial exigency," so requirements under financial exigency for faculty termination or participation in the budget-cutting process are not relevant, he said.

But Wood said he is thoroughly researching institutional policy to identify requirements for faculty participation in budget-cutting processes when financial exigency is not a factor.

"What we're looking at is whether or not

See AAUP on 3



Michelle Paulman/DN

Janene Sheldon, a graduate student in music and a member of the MENSA, improvises on a piano at Westbrook Music Building.

High IQ

Mensa member says her brilliance doesn't affect her everyday life

By Sean Green
Staff Reporter

Janene Sheldon won't admit it, but she could probably clean up on "Jeopardy."

She won't admit it because she's modest.

She could probably do it because she has an IQ of 143.

Sheldon, a graduate student of music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, says having a high IQ doesn't have much of an effect on her everyday life, and she laughs when she talks about common stereotypes of people with high intelligence.

Sheldon is the vice president of the Lincoln Mensa chapter, a group where people who score 130 or more on a nationally standardized IQ test can socialize with others of above average intelligence.

A score of 100 is average, below 70 is legally retarded and 200 is the highest the scale goes although some people have actually buried the needle and gone off the scale, Sheldon said.

"A lot of people think of very intelligent people as being social nerds, and while it may be true for some, it's certainly not the rule," Sheldon said.

While there are brilliant people who happen to be absent-minded, she added, there are just as many people with average intelligence who don't have much common sense.

"Some people's strongest form of intel-

See MENSA on 3

Error, new rule delay financial aid

By Michael Hannon
Staff Reporter

The delay in disbursement of some financial aid checks this semester was caused by a new federal regulation and a miscalculation by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, a UNL official said.

John Beacon, the director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said a new regulation issued by the Department of Education was partially responsible for the delay of the checks.

The regulation, which went into effect this semester, requires that financial aid for incoming freshmen and transfer students with less than 27 credit hours be held for 30 days after the first day of classes, Beacon said.

He said this regulation was an attempt to hold down default rates on Stafford loans and

supplemental loans for students.

In 1990, \$1.8 billion in student loans defaulted. This amount is expected to increase nearly 100 percent to \$3.5 billion in 1991, Beacon said.

"That is the reason the government is serious," he said.

He added that UNL's default rate was only 5.1 percent, as opposed to other institutions where the default rate was as high as 60 percent.

This semester, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid requested that student loan checks be ready by Sept. 24, one day before the end of the 30-day period and the day before tuition was due, Beacon said.

But he said he expected the checks to arrive 10 to 12 days earlier because banks have sent the checks out early in the past.

Because the financial aid checks arrived

later than expected, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid had only about 400 of the 800 delayed checks available, Beacon said.

"We'll know better next time," he said.

Beacon said that in the future, he would request the checks earlier and would be able to process them before the end of the 30-day period.

Robert Clark, director of Student Accounts, said his office waived the \$20 late fee for tuition for first-time borrowers who would not be able to get their financial aid in time to pay for tuition.

"It's very possible we may need to do something for the spring semester," Clark said.

This may happen every semester to first-time borrowers, he said.

Beacon said the late checks caused no serious problems because Student Accounts sent letters to the affected students informing them that they didn't need to pay tuition until Oct. 1.

Forum addresses minority issues

Faculty, students say recruitment, retention needed

By Kim Spurlock
Staff Reporter

A forum, sponsored by the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Minorities, addressed concerns about recruitment and retention of minority students Tuesday at the Nebraska Union.

About 100 people heard testimony from faculty, staff and residents of Lincoln about problems that minorities face at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Ralph Vigil, professor of history and ethnic studies, said the solution to recruitment and retention of minority students lies with the Board of Regents and the administration.

"The commission can't do anything. You can't do anything and I can't do anything. It is ultimately up to the policy of the president (Martin Massengale) and the Board of Regents," Vigil said.

Ayanna Boykins, a sophomore art education major, said the university recruits talented football players from across the country but doesn't recruit academically talented students.

Boykins said that her brother, a senior at Northwest High School in Omaha, has been offered full-ride academic scholarships from top universities across the United States, but UNL has shown little interest in him.

"We are always looking for athletes, but are we looking for scholars?" Boykins asked.

Ernest Smith, a sophomore chemi-

cal engineering major and president of Afrikan People's Union, said the university needs to create a better environment on campus for minorities. He also said that minorities together need to create an agenda to present to the administration.

"There were people who said they were here years ago and nothing has changed. It kind of puts a damper on your hopes. . . . The initiative must come from the administration and the Board of Regents," he said.

Colin Ramsay, a former chairman

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