Legislature releases plan to study workloads

By Sean Green Staff Reporter

A Nebraska legislative panel released its plan Friday to examine faculty workloads at UNL, including an intent to study how much time faculty teach, research and perform public service.

Legislative Resolution 148, sponsored by members of the Education and Appropriations committees, will examine the workload of University of Nebraska faculty members to see if they are working to their fullest potential.

In outlining the study, Kathy Tenopir, program analyst, listed eight items that will be included.

The university will provide infor-

the 1991 fall semester.

Those items include the balance between instruction, research and public service at each campus, faculty instructional workloads, use of full- and part-time faculty, class size, use of undergraduate assistants, travel reimbursement policies, faculty-outside income and English fluency.

Tenopir said the university should have the information available by March 1, 1992.

But during the time allowed for public comment, Craig Reisser of Omaha said the problem with the educational system is not faculty workloads, but a matter of having too much administration.

"In American education, there is

mation on each of the items, based on too much bureaucracy," said Reisser, a geography professor who said he was turned down for a teaching position at the University of Nebraska. "Let's look first to see how we can streamline the administration before we cut the muscle.'

Reisser said the growth of administration at universities is the root of the problem and suggested that the panel look into what he said was an excess of administration

As an example, he asked if the University of Nebraska at Omaha really needed a vice chancellor of affirmative action.

Reisser also said university faculty are divided between the "haves and have-nots.

"We have a lot of these have-nots

people who don't have the opportunity for meaningful full-time em- this is a witch hunt," Moore said. But ployment," Reisser said. "How do we decide who gets to be one of the privileged few?

chairman of the Legislature's Educa- had proposed to focus on representation Committee, said the study was tive departments in order to reflect not based on the assumption that faculty members don't work hard enough.

Instead, Withem said, the question is whether the university focuses enough on academic instruction and makes classroom instruction a priority in the university system.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward, the Appropriations Committee chairman, said his intention was to analyze faculty workload at UNL, not to change

"Some people are concerned that what the Legislature is doing, he said,

is not unusual. vileged few?" Lee Jones, provost of the Univer-Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, sity of Nebraska, said the university

> different teaching methods. We must keep in mind that different colleges will have different roles and missions," Jones said.

> He said the study should also consider the time professors spend preparing exams, advising students and talking to students about their exams.

> Of the representative departments, those selected for the study represent one out of five departments throughout the university, he said.



Nader

Continued from Page 1

hire a professional, full-time staff of organizers, writers, lawyers, ecologists or other consumer advocates to take on the problems of the commu-

Nader said 23 states, not including Nebraska, had student-run public-inter-

In New York, one such group has 12 offices and a \$3.5 million budget, Nader said. Its projects deal with energy policy, ecology, utility plants, government abuse, fraud and waste re-

"The interesting thing is that all it takes is \$6 per student per year. hardly the amount spent on beer on Saturday night," Nader said

Nader also criticized school systems that emphasize multiple-choice standardized tests, which test only a small part of a person's "multiple

What are multiple-choice, standardized tests testing? Is life a multiple-chioce, standardized test? Would you go to a multiple-choice lawyer?

> Nader consumer advocate

intelligences," he said.

These tests, he said, are used in all levels of education and include the SAT, ACT and LSAT college entrance exams.

"What are multiple-choice, standardized tests testing?" Nader asked. "Is life a multiple-choice, standardized test? Would you go to a multiple-choice lawyer?'

However, he added, multiple-choice tests with an option of "none of the above" were an advancement over

Other problems with education, Nader said, are that schools today have become job training centers in-

terested in teaching only vocational

Businesses also are getting too involved, he said.

"We are growing up corporate, and after a while you don't know you're growing up corporate," Nader For example, Nader said that one

appointment to speak at a high school had been cancelled because school officials had been afraid that he would insult the insurance industry.

Other projects that Nader is working on include a campaign-finance reform and his own presidential write-

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Business is b(u)y the book

By Sean Green

Senior Reporter

Students can now buy or sell their books without having to stand in line at the bookstores as part of a UNL student's new business.

"What I really am is a book broker," said Sandra Fournier, a junior food science and technology major. 'People call and let me know what book they want to sell, and I try to find a buyer.'

Fournier, who operates the business out of her home, said she would make a list of books that students were trying to sell, including the title, author and class the book was for.

When a student who wants to buy a certain book calls, Fournier said, she will check the list to see if anyone is trying to sell that book.

'A lot of students don't sell their books to other students because it's too time consuming," she said.

Fournier said she would take 10 percent of the sales, but if she could not sell a book, she would not charge for the service.

Making money is not her motivation for starting the service, she said.

"I could make more money working a part-time job, I'm sure. But I think this service is filling a need at UNL."

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