

Daily Nebraskan

February 11, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 91 No. 99



TODAY'S WEATHER

28/17

Today, mostly cloudy and colder with a 30 percent chance of light snow, northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight, 50 percent chance of light snow. Wednesday, 40 percent of light snow.

Federal funds may back UNL research

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

Final touches are being put on proposals that could bring about \$4 million in federal funding to Nebraska for three research projects involving UNL.

The projects, part of EPSCOR, or the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, will be submitted to the National Science Foundation Feb. 21. The foundation will review them and announce its decision on whether it will fund them next fall.

The first project, led by David Sellmyer, director of the center for materials research and analysis at UNL, will be aimed at discovering new magnetic film, high temperature superconductors and at miniaturizing technological components. It will cost \$3.3 million over three years.

"Basically with all of these," Sellmyer said, "we are designing new materials with very fine structural features that may have interesting and useful technological properties."

The second project, headed by John Golbeck, an associate professor of biochemistry, will examine the role of metals in biochemical reactions. The project will be aimed at finding industrial uses for naturally occurring chemical reactions, and will cost \$2.07 million over three years.

"Once we know how plants do these things (biochemical reactions), we can apply that to industry," Golbeck said.

The third project, which will study animal behavior in communication, feeding and reproduction, is led by Alan Kamil, a professor of biological sciences. It will cost \$2.13 million over three years.

"The major thrust of this proposal involves understanding behavior, evolution and neurophysiology (in animals), all at the same time," he said.

Three states — Kansas, Nebraska and West Virginia — are competing for EPSCOR funding. Nebraska became eligible for the research funding last year after it was classified as a state without a "significant record in research activities."

Gov. Ben Nelson has asked for \$650,000 in emergency spending from the Nebraska Legislature for EPSCOR this year. LB1022, the bill containing the requested appropriations, has a hearing Thursday before the appropriations committee.

Andrew Cunningham, assistant director of the governor's policy research office, said Nelson was firmly behind the program.

"The governor sees this as a very significant opportunity for the state to focus its research," Cunningham said. "He has made it a priority and put it in his mid-year budget and state of the state speech."

Nelson has proposed funding part of his \$650,000 appropriation for EPSCOR with \$260,000 left over from a \$520,000 surplus from the College of Business Administration addition.

But University of Nebraska President Martin Massengale asked the Legislature's Appropriation Committee last week to spend all of the \$520,000 surplus on new equipment for the CBA addition. Members of the committee raised the possibility that the surplus could be used to help fund the building of a new hazardous waste treatment facility at the University of

See EPSCOR on 5

UNL official calls bill setting teaching minimums expensive

Six credit hour requirement for professors could lead to hiring of more personnel

By Mike Lewis
Staff Reporter

If the Nebraska Legislature passes a bill requiring professors to teach six credit hours a week, it could cost the University of Nebraska millions of dollars, a university official said.

Michael Mulnix, executive director of public relations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said LB1044 failed to consider the full range of people it would affect.

The bill, introduced by Sens. Ron Withem of Papillion, and John Lindsay and Daniel Lynch, both of Omaha, would require all faculty with assistant professor rank and above at Nebraska public postsecondary schools to teach at least six credit hours a week. If passed, the bill would go into effect beginning July 1, 1993.



Many NU professors are appointed for non-instructional purposes only, Mulnix said, including library faculty, county extension agents and departmental and campus administrators, as well as professors who only research.

"You can't imagine how disruptive it is... to teach six credit hours a semester," he said.

The university would have to hire additional people to work in its libraries and take over research, Mulnix said. In addition, the bill would kill the Cooperative Extension Service, he said.

Federal grants and other outside funding could be harmed because of the decrease in research time, according to a fiscal impact statement recently released by UNL.

Also, medical students and faculty often do not work under a credit hour system, said Randal L. Haack, assistant vice president and director of budgets and analysis.

Instead, students spend time with patients in a hospital under the supervision of a faculty member who is also a doctor or surgeon, Haack said. The unit of time measurement is different.

Haack said he was coordinating a response to LB1044 from all four NU campuses.

See BILL on 3



Staci McKee/DN

Lowell Moser, a professor of agronomy, spends most of his time reviewing data and helping his graduate students. Moser just received the Sunkist award for his teaching and his studies in range management.

Home-grown Award honors professor's efforts

By Lori Huff
Staff Reporter

Although his achievements seem limitless, UNL agronomy professor Lowell Moser doesn't boast.

Moser recently was named the first Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Professor of Agronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln by the NU Board of Regents. He deemed it a "humbling experience."

"I have mixed feelings," he said. "I'm very pleased, but it is humbling when you look at all the good people

around."

Moser was recommended for the special professorship by Irv Omtvedt, vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. IANR news service quoted Omtvedt as saying, "We are extremely pleased that someone as highly qualified as Dr. Moser is the first recipient of this award. His accomplishments epitomize the selection criteria."

The criteria in the selection process included productivity as a scholar, contributions in teaching and research, leadership and service contribution to the university.

In addition to Moser's regular salary, he

See MOSER on 3



TUESDAY

1.2 million gallon aquarium may be planned for Centrum. Page 6

Johnson, U.S. hockey team magic on court. Page 7

Prince sets record. Page 10

INDEX

Wire	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7
A&E	9
Classifieds	12



Legislators pass living will bills

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

State legislators passed two bills in final reading Monday that recognize Nebraskans' rights to direct their own medical treatment.

LB671, the living will bill sponsored by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln, passed by a vote of 34-9.

The bill recognizes living wills in directing medical treatment if a person becomes terminally ill or reaches a persistently

vegetative state.

The original bill, introduced last session, allowed for recognition of both a durable power of attorney and a living will in directing medical treatment.

A living will gives the attending physician specific instructions on what medical treatment will be allowed or acceptable.

A durable power of attorney, instead of instructing the physician, gives a third person the power to make the decisions of what direction treatment should follow.

An additional section of LB671 for Nebraskans without a living will would allow the attending physician

to decide what to do with a patient in an incapacitated state.

According to the bill, the doctors would follow a chain of command to make the decision to end a patient's life or let the patient live on life support.

The section was dropped from the bill when senators voted for an amendment, proposed by Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha, to drop the clause.

The durable power of attorney clause also was dropped from the bill, this time by Landis, to let the question be decided by another terminal illness bill, also introduced last session.

See WILL on 3

