Boost in graduate-student enrollment levels off

By Kathryn Borman

Staff Reporter

A gradual increase in graduate student enrollment at UNL over the past few years appears to be leveling off, a university official said.

Merlin Lawson, dean of graduate studies, said 4,390 graduate students were enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this semester 2 percent increase over last fall.

Last fall, graduate student enroll-ment at UNL increased by 9.4 percent and last spring, the number of graduate students jumped 17 percent.

"I think the increment is starting to level out because we . . . have had some budgetary reductions," Lawson

Lawson said the increase in graduate students was in part because of the Nebraska Research Initiative, a fiveyear plan that matches federal funding with state grants. The initiative has provided more than \$8 million for research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for each of the last four years.

Graduate research assistantships

have increased by 26 percent since 1988, when the initiative started, he

Despite the leveling off of earlier increases in the number of graduate students, Lawson said he was pleased with the growth the graduate studies program had experienced.

However, funding for the initiative decreased 2 percent last year and another I percent this year from its peak funding two years ago of \$8.4 million for UNL, said Bill Splinter, vice chancellor for research.

Splinter said the initiative could suffer more cuts this year.

The initiative divides its \$12 million in funding among UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, he said.

Splinter said the initiative probably would be reviewed early next

"We certainly expect that (the initiative) will be continued," he said, adding that there were "no thoughts about it not continuing."

ments without a problem.

"The standards could make people more prepared when they come to college," he said.

major from Schuyler, said the tougher dards. standards would improve the overall

quality of students attending UNL.

Schuyler area offered all the necessary courses that would be required

Ben Kroeze, a freshman undeclared major from Omaha, said he hoped to Kaelee Brown, a freshman theater see UNL adopt the proposed stan-

"I see a lot of immature people ality of students attending UNL. who aren't prepared for the univer-Brown said all the schools in the sity," he said.

Pow Wow

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in a "give-away," in which a dancer gives away blankets, jewelry or other possessions to honor a member of their family.

The Pow Wow, sponsored by the University Program Council's Native American Special Events and American Special Events committees, UNL Inter-Tribal Exchange, and private donations,

Exercise regularly. American Heart

Association

Joe Rowson, director of public affairs at UNL, said NU officials already had decided to use their own process before they were contacted by the commission last summer.

awarded \$925 in cash prizes to first-

second- and third-place winners in

dancing divisions.

In addition to age categories, the dancing was divided into six

The main purpose of events such

from the commission's list because

NU officials have decided to use a

separate process to determine the best

the adult, junior and tiny-tots

divisions: for men, fancy, tradi-

tional and grass, and jingle, traditional and fancy for women.

as the pow wow is to make other nationalities aware of Native

American culture, Holdener said.

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peer group for each campus.

Peer

An advisory group comprised of three presidents emeriti was chosen to select NU's peer groups, Rowson said.

The advisory group is comprised of Edward Boling, president emeritus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; Bryce Jordan, president emeritus of Pennsylvania State University in Middletown; and Robert Marston, president emeritus of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

'We think the process is totally objective, and it will work well for us," Rowson said. The panel will release its list of NU system peer groups by Jan. 7, he said.

Stahl said the coordinating commission's peer group selection process relied on data from a company based in Boulder, Colo.

The process involves entering inuniversities into computer banks to find comparable institutions, he said.

Stahl said he and NU President Martin Massengale had discussed the disagreement about the processes in a 'very civil" manner.

"It's not like we sit across from each other at a table with our arms crossed, just staring at each other," Stahl said. "We just disagree. We would prefer that the university cooperate, but if not, we just move on.

What the university does is the university's business, not mine.'

Rowson said he, too, thought too much had been made of the disagreement between NU officials and the coordinating commission.

"It's not an issue of uncooperativeness," Rowson said. "It's a question of us having a sincere belief of our peer group selection process being a worthwhile one."



Graduate student enrollment levels off Increases in graduate student enrollment, partly attributed to the 9.4 percent Nebraska Research 17 percent Fall '91 Initiative, a five-year 2 percent plan that matches Spring '9 federal funds with Fall '91 state grants, shows signs of leveling off this 4,390 graduate students this fall

Admissions

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lieved most small high schools could meet the added requirements.

Rust, who graduated from Class D-2 Rising City Public School, said he could have met the added require-

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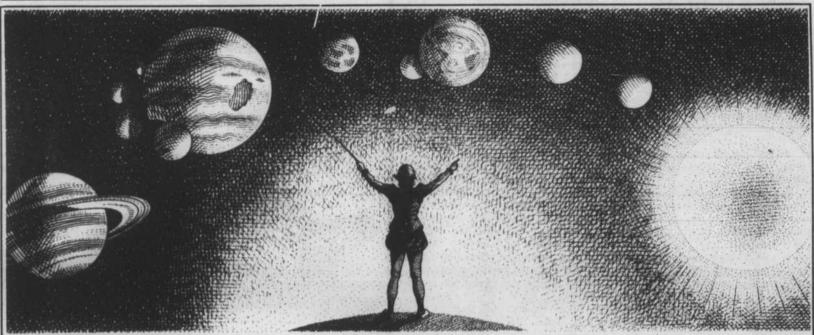
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