

# NU environment needs changes, official says

## Progress made toward improving climate for women

By Andy Raun  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska's central administration and campuses have made strides toward improving gender climates for women, but they still have a long way to go, officials told the NU Board of Regents Saturday.

The regents called for the reports to be presented during the regular monthly meeting.

Mary Beck, associate professor of animal science and chairperson of the UNL Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, told the board in her report that some progress had been made toward fulfilling recommendations that the commission made in 1991.

New programs and initiatives that have come about as a result of the recommendations are "welcome and long-sought," Beck said. But they must be strengthened and expanded over time if UNL's climate for women is to become "less chilly," she said.

Beck pointed to the hiring of new women administrators, a new sense of commitment to ensuring campus security, more effective information gathering on sexual assaults occurring on campus, future implementation of new procedures for handling sexual assault and discrimination complaints, and other developments as evidence of progress.

For 1992, Beck said, the commis-

sion is making a new set of recommendations that includes increasing efforts not only to hire but also to retain women in faculty, staff and administration positions.

Accountability for carrying out the university's gender-related policies needs to extend to the departmental level, she said.

Beck praised UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier for his part in promoting gender equity.

Spanier said he was proud of achievements made since the commission was established.

Neale Copple, former dean of the UNL College of Journalism, and Wilma Crumley, Copple's former assistant, reported as part of a special assignment that although few women occupied top-level NU administrative positions, there was increasing concern for and support of gender equity at that level.

Mary Bruning, chairperson of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, said significant progress had been made on her campus in the last 18 months, but that gender inequity still was widespread in a variety of respects.

Betty Becker-Theye, chairperson of the UNK Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, pointed to increased awareness of sexual harassment problems and the advent of a bigger role for the affirmative action officer on her campus as positive changes.

Carol Aschenbrenner, chancellor of the NU Medical Center, said gender equity issues were especially important on her campus because they also involved the interaction with patients whose progress could be impeded by inappropriate behavior or attitudes of faculty or students.

# Interior design students to switch colleges in fall

By Nicole Sheets  
Staff Reporter

The proposal to move interior design majors from the College of Home Economics to the College of Architecture has reached final approval.

The proposal, which was initiated last spring by administrators, staff and students, was reviewed and recommended in late November by the Academic Planning Committee. Final approval was then made by Chancellor Graham Spanier.

Spanier said plans for the transition would continue through July and would go into effect next fall.

"This move is not based on finance, but rather what is best for the students," Spanier said.

With the move, juniors and seniors who are already in the interior design program and who wish to graduate with an architecture degree after May 1993 will have to complete additional requirements.

Freshmen and sophomores in the interior design program, along with incoming freshmen, will transfer to the College of Architecture beginning July 1, 1993.

A recent poll of interior design students indicated that they favored the move and believed architecture core courses would give them valuable experience.

Karen Craig, dean of the College of Home Economics, said she had mixed feelings about the move and

she hated to lose the students.

"There is no right or wrong with this move. It is an OK move for the students, but there will be some gain and some loss," Craig said. "Architecture is more technical and the students will lose the human dimension and color and textile influence from the home economics college."

The move will not be a total loss for the home economics college, Craig said.

Some interior design courses will remain in the college, and the move will offer a chance to expand new programs, Craig said.

Joseph Luther, associate dean of the College of Architecture, said his college was happy with the change and anticipated no transitional problems.

Interior design students are eager to transfer, and the architecture students also are excited about the move, Luther said.

"This move is a great opportunity," Luther said, "not a problem."

More emphasis will be placed on architecture in core classes after the transfer, Luther said. Pre-interior design requirements will be about the same as pre-architecture requirements, he said.

"The College of Architecture offers a different environment and great resources," Luther said. "Architecture leans more towards design, which is the direction that interior design is taking now."

## NEWS BRIEF

### Health center to close over break

The University Health Center building will close at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23 for the university's holiday shutdown. There will be no medical or telephone service at the health center until it resumes normal hours on Jan. 4, 1993.

Student fees do not cover any health services during the

shutdown.

The health center recommends students remaining in Lincoln make appointments for medical problems at the Lincoln Family Medical Group, 7441 O St., 488-7400.

Students who become acutely ill or suffer injuries should go to the nearest hospital.

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