

Finalists for position are strong pool, official says

Splinter to retire from job in June

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier has again selected finalists for a new vice chancellor for research, and the search committee hopes this second round will result in a successful match.

A previous committee conducted a search and offered the position last June to Anthony Hines, a former dean at the University of Missouri. Hines accepted the position and then declined two hours later, temporarily halting the search.

A new committee was formed to begin the present search, said Stan Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology and chairman of the search committee for the new vice chancellor for research.

The new search began in August, Liberty said, three months earlier in the year than the first search. The committee has been screening applications since November.

The current pool of five candidates is very strong, Liberty said. He predicted the position would be filled by about March 15.

The current vice chancellor for research, William Splinter, is retiring June 30.

The vice chancellor for research is responsible for grant applications and programs, patenting of new discover-

ies and technology and administering a state grant to the University of Nebraska to foster research on all campuses, Splinter said.

He also listed administration of Morrill Hall and the University Press and regulation of policies regarding research, such as those dealing with animal care and use of human subjects, as major responsibilities of the new vice chancellor.

Despite the scientific base of the position, the vice chancellor for research does not have to be a specialist in the hard sciences, such as physics or biology, Splinter said.

One finalist for the position, Ronald Hedlund from the University of Rhode Island, is a social scientist, Splinter said. Hedlund was scheduled to visit UNL Monday and today.

Two other finalists, Todd Schuster from the University of Connecticut and John Dimmock from the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, will visit UNL for interviews later this month.

Priscilla Grew from the University of Minnesota and Donald Price from the University of Florida, the remaining candidates, will visit UNL in February.

The new vice chancellor for research will be one of five vice chancellors at UNL and the second one chosen by Spanier since he came to UNL in November 1990.

The other top administrator appointed by Spanier was Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joan R. Leitzel.

Kees' work timeless, panel says

By Matthew Grant
Staff Reporter

The poems of Nebraskan writer Weldon Kees contain dark and terrible elements, but succeed because of their timelessness, an expert panel agreed Monday.

"I think that's because his topics and affairs are those of the heart, and we like to believe that those are things which don't change," Simon Armitage, a British poet, said.

Armitage lives in Huddersfield, England and works as a probation officer in Manchester. He spent time in Lincoln to film part of a documentary on Kees with the British Broadcasting Corporation, which will be screened in March 1993.

Weldon Kees was born in Beatrice in 1914, the son of a factory owner. In 1937 he graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He then moved to New York and later on to San Francisco, where he disappeared in 1955.

Simon Armitage is the author of two books of poetry, "Zoom!" and "Kid." He became interested in Kees about three years ago when he read an article about him in The Times Literary Supplement.

Armitage's work includes a poem "Looking for Weldon Kees" and a number of poems that use the persona Robinson. The character, who originated in Daniel Defoe's novel "Robinson Crusoe," was also used by Kees in his poems. Armitage said the Robinson character had been a gangplank for him, paradoxically allowing him to discover his own voice in his poetry through the character.

James Reidel, also a member of the panel, is the editor of Kees' essays and his novel "Fall Quarter," and she is writing a biography on Kees. Reidel, from Cincinnati, said that interest in Kees by other poets was not something new.

"Kees' entire career has been maintained by other poets," he said. "Every generation that comes along rediscovers him."

And in his introduction to "Fall Quarter," Reidel draws attention to the widespread nature of Kees' art: "The three volumes of poetry Kees published before he disappeared in 1955, presumably by leaping off the Golden Gate Bridge, the



Staci McKee/DN

British poet Simon Armitage holds one of his three books, titled "Kid." "My poetry is abstract," Armitage said. "Often, it is based on everyday situations."

“I heard it said the other day that if he had gone missing he couldn't have kept quiet, such was his interest in the arts.”

— Armitage
British poet

Vigil

Continued from Page 1

cultural student society, said the group felt honoring Dr. King would bring out the members' ideas about the status of Dr. King's dream today.

"In many aspects we (members of the student society) are kind of invisible at the law school, but we want our voices about King's dream and other things to be heard," Sayers said.

Junior broadcasting major Linda Kay Morgan said "this university is in the state it is in now because a lot of people don't understand what his (Dr. King's) dream meant."

Morgan suggested that the university could recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day by closing classes, setting up programs and bringing in speakers.

"Dr. King is an important part of our education and we mustn't neglect him or his dream," Morgan said.



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Regents

Continued from Page 1

dealing with multicultural issues.

"Changing people's attitudes and perceptions has got to be our main priority," Blank said. "When we get that done, we'll probably be able to make a lot of changes for the better."

The six-page report outlined five fundamental areas to be considered in achieving multicultural diversity.

Among the committee's recommendations are:

- To establish and encourage a clear commitment to the value of diversity throughout the university committee.

"University leaders should not only state their commitment clearly and continuously," the report said, "but should exhibit that commitment through their actions."

- To establish a system of accountability to measure progress toward achieving the recommendations presented in the report.

To accomplish this, the committee recommended implementing affirmative-action plans designed to "achieve employee representation which reflects a position of leadership among similarly situated institutions," performance evaluations at every level, an annual report by each campus regarding the status of diversity concerns and progress, and exit interviews to determine whether equity issues had influenced the departure of any employee.

- To establish effective methods of recruitment and retention of minority faculty, staff, students and admin-

istrators.

The committee suggested mentoring and professional development plans and increased recruitment of minority students, including methods targeting bilingual families.

- The creation and maintenance of campus climates conducive to success for all people, including intolerance of "unfair, illegal and irrational discrimination in any form," and efforts to "dispel the ignorance or anxiety associated with multicultural experiences."

- Support and encouragement for a diverse curriculum that would "accurately evidence a balanced reflection of the contribution of all peoples, regardless of culture, race or ethnicity."

- Pursuit of a "meaningful improvement" in awareness and sensitivity to diversity issues among faculty, staff, administrators and students.

Workshops, seminars, speakers, forums and festivals on cultural diversity were among the possibilities, the report said.

The report concluded that the committee's overall goal was to promote success of everyone in the NU system.

Blank said he did not know what action would be taken to implement the committee's recommendations, but that specific action would be discussed only after the report was approved by the NU Board of Regents at its next meeting in February.

He said he was "99 and nine-tenths sure" the board would accept the committee's recommendations.

"I know the commitment's there."