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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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20/5
Today, partly sunny.
Tonight, partly cloudy.
Tuesday, partly sunny
with highs in the mid 20s.

Spanier wants E-mail for all

By Matthew Grant
Staff Reporter

According to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier, electronic mail, or sending messages between computers, is the communication of the future.

"I'd like to see UNL, in a couple of years, be at the point where every faculty, staff member and student has E-mail," Spanier said.

Faculty, staff and graduate students at UNL can use electronic mail to communicate with people as close at hand as their own departments and as far away as overseas.

Right now, undergraduate students need class authorization to get an E-mail account, but the university is looking at ways to make E-mail available to all students, said Donna Liss, coordinator of information management at UNL.

Spanier said he would like to see all of UNL's residence halls wired for E-mail in the near future. The growth curve in E-mail use, he said, is "phenomenal."

Spanier said he received between 10 and 30 messages a day through E-mail, about four of which come from out-of-state.

Before Spanier came to the university, Liss said, he checked to make sure he would have electronic mail.

Recently, Liss said, Spanier told her that he checks his E-mail messages before his phone

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Jeff Haller/DN

ONE, two, three . . .

Ron Albertson of the Lincoln band Mercy Rule sets the music in motion Saturday night at the Big Red Rock-O-Rama in the East Union. See story on page 9.

Financial aid changes to benefit dependents

Existing, proposed items should be fused to curb costs, UNL official says

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

President Clinton's best bet for refining the way students get money to pay for college is to combine elements from both the existing and proposed financial aid systems, a UNL official said.

John Beacon, director of financial aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said national leaders should consider the proposals of the National Commission on the Responsibilities for Financing Postsecondary Education while retaining aspects of the current system.

The commission, which was comprised of educators and civic leaders, was created by Congress two years ago to respond to concerns about the rising costs of college education.

The full impact of the Congressional plan passed last year to deal with the problem will not be felt by students until next year, Beacon said.

Beacon said many of the commission's recommendations, such as offering students a mix of grants and loans based on need, were similar to the existing program.

"I hope they don't throw out the baby with the bath water," he said. "With a combination

of the two, taking advantage of what's good in both, we could have a better program in the long run."

Beacon said the commission's proposals regarding Pell Grants, direct loaning and national service should be considered and possibly added to the current system.

The amount available for students through Pell Grants has been decreasing, he said.

Every year Congress authorizes a set amount of funding for the grants. However, it has not met the amount appropriated since the program began in 1972, Beacon said.

As a result, the program has recorded a shortfall of about \$1.4 billion. Money appropriated for grants each year then has to be used to make up the difference.

The commission's proposal to absorb smaller grants into the Pell Grant and eliminate the gap between the authorized funds and those actually received would solve the problem, Beacon said.

"I hate to see the Pell Grant program dwindling," he said.

The commission also proposed taking the job of primary lender away from private banks and giving it to the government.

Direct loaning to students from the government would save taxpayers the fee the government pays to banks for administering the loans, and the fee students pay to banks for doing business. Together these savings could amount

See BUDGET on 6

Adjusted formula to mean fewer grants, more loans effective next school year

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

More students will be eligible for financial aid in 1993-94, but the assistance will be in the form of loans rather than grants, a UNL official said.

John Beacon, director of scholarships and financial aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said dependent students would find themselves eligible for more assistance, while independent, married students would be less eligible.

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid prepared a report on the expected impact of recent changes in student financial aid regulations. Beacon said he submitted the report to the NU Board of Regents last Saturday.

Congress passed a package of higher education amendments, referred to as the reauthorization of student financial aid, which was signed into law by former President Bush in July.

A change in the standard maintenance allowance, which is the base-level of income from which need is calculated, will alter eligibility for financial aid, Beacon said.

The new calculation is based on a combina-

tion of the former Congressional and Pell Grant formulas.

The new standard maintenance allowance for a dependent student is \$1,750. The former Congressional standard was based upon zero income and the Pell Grant formula used the figure of \$4,200.

The higher standard maintenance allowance means that dependent students would be eligible for more aid, but the increase will generally be in loans rather than grants, Beacon said.

Beacon said Pell Grants would meet the needs of fewer students than last year because of the lower base calculation, and because fewer dollars were allocated per student.

"Fewer students will qualify," Beacon said. "Those who do qualify will get less."

Students who qualify for Pell Grants for the coming school year would receive awards of \$2,300, compared to grants of \$2,400 in 1992-93.

The reduction in Pell Grants is the result of an attempt by Congress to offset the program's \$1.4 billion shortfall.

Beacon said dependent students of middle-income families would benefit most from the changes. Most families with less than a \$50,000 income would be allowed to exclude assets from their calculation of contribution. No family would be required to include home and farm equity.

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Three-year degree program not for UNL, officials say

Years to earn a degree

For freshman entering UNL

By Mark Harms
Staff Reporter

In an era when college students are taking more time to graduate — at UNL only 17 percent of entering freshmen graduate in four years — some colleges and universities are bucking the trend by pushing for three-year bachelor's degree programs.

Stanford University and Oberlin College are among the institutions considering three-year programs that would be based loosely on those used in France, England and Germany, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Proponents of the three-year plan say it would save students money and add focus to their educational experi-

ence. According to a survey done by the American Council on Education, 53 percent of college administrators say students are taking longer to graduate because of finances. A three-year degree program would cut the cost of education for students and speed up their entry into the job market.

However, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is not considering a three-degree program, officials said.

"For Oberlin and Stanford, it may be more of an economic imperative," said John Peters, dean of the college of arts and sciences.

Peters said tuition at Stanford was close to \$24,000 yearly, and such institutions must look at ways to ease the financial burden on students.

Joan Leitzel, senior vice chancel-

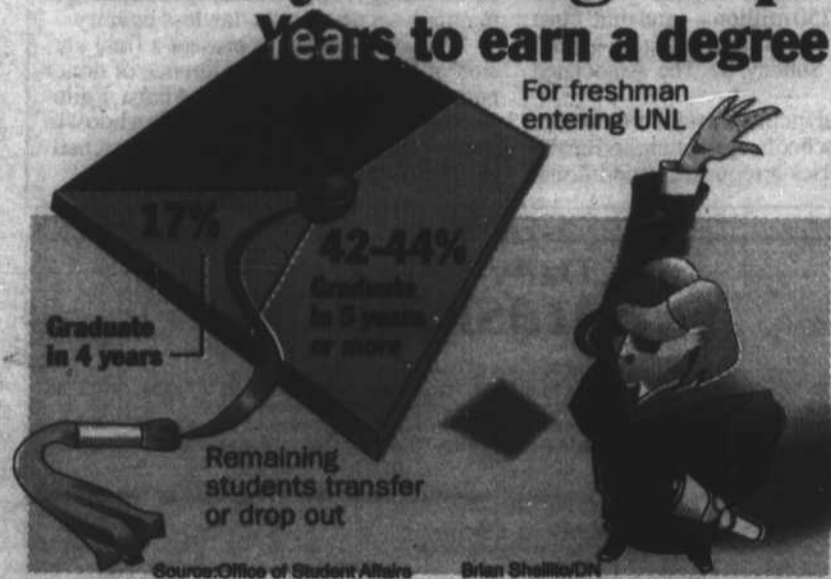
lor for academic affairs, said she was not surprised that expensive private colleges are looking at three-year programs in order to cut costs.

"A three-year program has benefits if the goal is efficiency and streamlining," Leitzel said, "but that's not the goal I think this university should have. I never thought of education as an efficient process."

She said the U.S. public education system is not generally designed to prepare students for an accelerated undergraduate career.

She said the European model does not compare well with that of the United States because European students receive more preparation be-

See 3-YEARS on 6



Source: Office of Student Affairs Brian Shellen/DN