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SPORTS Blue Collar

Bruce Chubick is using hustle to make up for his lack of height in the middle of Nebraska's lineup.
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Thursday

40/11

Cloudy and colder with a chance of light snow.

Bill would define coordinating body's role

By Jeffrey Robb
Senior Editor
and Amie Haggart
Staff Reporter

The authority of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education may be reined in by changes proposed in a bill introduced to the Nebraska Legislature earlier this week.

Recently, individual universities have raised concerns that the commission was overstepping its bounds by interfering in the internal operations of campuses.

Debate on LB1063, introduced Tuesday by

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, would be an opportunity to review the practices of the commission, the senator said.



LEGISLATURE

"If items need clarification or changes to make it more efficient," Warner said, "then definitely we ought to be considering them."

The commission was approved by Nebraska voters in November 1990. Its original role was to prevent duplication of programs among colleges and universities and to provide a communication link between them.

LB1063 would clarify that role.

The bill says the commission "shall be policy-based ... and shall not invade the institutional governance or management authority of any governing board."

The bill's specifics are not set, Warner said, but it addresses most of the interference complaints raised by the Nebraska Council of Higher Education, which includes the NU Board of Regents, the board of state colleges and community college boards.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said, "I'm in favor of having coordination on the postsecondary level, but what has happened as the commission is acting now has gone beyond coordination and has gone into governance and

administration."

J.B. Milliken, NU vice president for external affairs, said the legislation wouldn't change the commission's original role.

"This legislation would help to define where the line is between coordinating and governing," he said.

Bruce Stahl, executive director of the commission, said the body was formed to maintain a consistent long-term vision for postsecondary education in Nebraska.

But confusion about the commission dates back to problems with definitions in the founding constitutional amendment, he said.

See COMMISSION on 8

Long lines may be coming to an end at Drop/Add

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Students who drop and add classes next semester will no longer be greeted by Joy Boster's smile at the Drop/Add door.

But they won't be clenching pencils, poring over stacks of forms and bubble sheets at crowded folding tables in the Nebraska Union, either.

NRoll, a touch-tone phone registration system, will replace the university's Drop/Add procedure in March.

The upcoming change met mostly with excitement from the students who packed the Union Ballroom Wednesday afternoon.

But employees who have helped students through the complex process were a little saddened.

"I'm going to miss meeting the students," said Boster, who has been in charge of floor control at Drop/Add for more than six years. "I'm going to miss the people. They've been nice to work for and with."

Kate Kuhlmann, a junior nursing major, peered up from a mass of registration sheets spread over the floor. She was crouched over them, her head in her hands.

Kuhlmann is a Drop/Add veteran. She said she had gone through the process at least four times since she had been at the university.

"Absolutely!" Kuhlmann said, when asked whether the phone system would make things easier. "I've been waiting for (NRoll) ever since I got here."

Around the corner, Mike Hansen glanced over his schedule of classes, which he had been studying intently. Hansen just transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, which already has phone registration.

His said he missed Kearney's Drop/Add procedure.

"To register, you just had to punch in the call number for the class you wanted," Hansen said. "It worked well."

The senior animal science major said Kearney's phone system had only taken half an hour to use. Hansen already had been at Drop/Add for an hour and a half Wednesday.

Beyond a seemingly constant line to the

See DROP on 6



Jeff Haller/DN

Gov. Ben Nelson, left, talks with Dennis Smith, NU President-elect Wednesday at the governor's office in the State Capitol.

Smith: It's premature to discuss goals

President-elect plans to study problems before taking office

By Angie Brunkow
Senior Reporter

NU President-elect Dennis Smith said Wednesday it was too early for him to discuss his goals as the new leader of the University of Nebraska, a job he will begin March 1.

During a press conference, Smith said he would better be able to answer questions about his goals for the University of Nebraska when he replaced NU President Martin Messengale.

"The University of Nebraska can only have one president at a time," he said.

Smith, executive vice chancellor of the

University of California-Irvine since 1987, has been in Lincoln for three days. During his visit, he has met with central administration officials and acquainted himself with his future office.

Two issues already confronting Smith are the establishment of an independent engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and planning the NU budget.

Smith wouldn't comment on the engineering issue, but he said he would begin work on the project after a committee study. Smith also wouldn't comment on his plans for the budget, but he said he would be heavily involved in the budget-forming process when he assumed his new post.

He said that compared to California's budget, which is always being cut, the NU budget looked good.

Smith said NU probably had areas that

needed more legislative funds, but he wanted more time to consider budget details before he could form an opinion.

"It takes time to really acquaint yourself with the operations of a university," he said.

During his February visit, Smith will meet with chancellors and regents to discuss university issues in greater detail.

Smith said he didn't anticipate problems interacting with the chancellors and planned to work with them as a team.

The university system is designed so individual campuses report to chancellors, chancellors report to him, and he reports to the NU Board of Regents, Smith said.

"I don't want to run their campuses," he said.

After a meeting with the Ag Builders organization Wednesday morning, Smith had a meeting with Gov. Ben Nelson at the State Capitol.

CFA to begin budget hearings; groups want increases

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

The Committee for Fees Allocation will begin hearings today to review budget requests of organizations that use student fees.

The Daily Nebraskan, the University Program Council and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska — all Fund A groups — have submitted requests thus far.



ASUN, UPC, DN request Fund A student fees increase

The committee divides groups using student fees into Fund A and Fund B, CFA chairwoman Shawntell Hurtgen said. The groups are divided based on whether they are student or professionally operated.

The Fund B groups include the University Health Center, the Campus Recreation Center and the Nebraska Unions. Hurtgen said these groups generated much of their own money.

The Daily Nebraskan is requesting the largest increase in the Fund A

group. Jeremy Fitzpatrick, Daily Nebraskan editor, said the newspaper's needs were temporary.

"We're asking for a 12 percent increase in our student fee this year only," Fitzpatrick said.

A 3 percent increase in printing costs, which carries a \$5,750 price tag, is the reason for the request, Fitzpatrick said. He said the increase would give the Daily Nebraskan an additional \$5,000 to cover those costs.

"We'd prefer to ask for none," Fitzpatrick said. "We don't expect to

ask for (a fee increase) next year."

The semester cost, Fitzpatrick said, would be 11 cents per student.

ASUN President Keith Benes said his group had requested a 3.32 percent increase to cover employees cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and health benefit increases.

Offering health care benefits comparable to those of university officials was ASUN's goal for its employees, Benes said.

"One reason we decided to improve the benefits is that we do have

good people working here," Benes said.

UPC is requesting a 5.29 percent increase in student fees, President Lia Jensen said. The fund increase would not be much different, she said, but where the money went would.

Jensen said the homecoming budget would increase by 75 percent because of a street party. She said using the Lincoln Police Department for security would be expensive.

The increase may appear high, Jensen said, but the money for the homecoming events would come from events classified in more than one area.