

Enrollment slightly down from fall

By Jennifer Groen
Staff Reporter

Preliminary registration figures show that enrollment at UNL is slightly lower than last semester.

According to Earl Hawkey, director of registration and records, 77 fewer people registered for classes this semester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"This is less than one percent, so we are essentially at the same point as last year," Hawkey said.

Hawkey said UNL's enrollment had been steady for the past two years he had been working for the university.

Graduate student registration increased by 142 from last semester and undergraduate registration decreased by 219, Hawkey said.

Merlin Lawson, dean of graduate studies, said there had been a steady increase in graduate enrollment every year for the last five years.

Graduate enrollment has dramatically increased because a growing number of people are realizing that a master's degree increases their income potential and gives them better job security, Lawson said.

"Recent studies have showed that people with master's degrees earn \$1 million more in a lifetime than people

with only a bachelor's degree," Lawson said.

Undergraduate registration, however, was somewhat lower this semester than last.

Hawkey said a decline in high school graduates was one reason for the decline in UNL's undergraduate enrollment.

Hawkey said the small decrease in enrollment didn't surprise him.

"We expected it to be down slightly because we had our largest December graduation ever," he said.

At winter graduation, UNL graduated 122 more students than in December 1992.

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Penalty

Continued from Page 1

the process easy for all concerned.

"It should be ... much less stressful than strapping a guy to a chair and running a bunch of voltage through him," Elmer said.

LB600 was introduced in the 1993 session by Elmer and was held over to this session. In the Judiciary Committee hearings last year, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha attempted, and failed, to kill the bill.

Elmer said he knew there were senators that abhorred the death penalty, and he expected them to vote against LB600. But for those who weren't sure on the issue, Elmer said he expected something different.

"If you think we can provide a less stressful way to execute an individual who has been sentenced to the termination of his life, I would expect your support," Elmer said.

Chambers said he opposed the bill on the grounds of his own principles.

"There is no way that killing by the state can be made attractive enough for me to support it, unless that method would be old age," Chambers said. He said he opposed the death penalty in any and all cases.

Elmer said 22 states used lethal injections as the means for execution.

Guide

Continued from Page 1

"The people in Nebraska are incredible," he said. "The students are very enthusiastic."

Wilson said UNL had been included in the publication since its inception in 1991 — a trend that was likely to continue.

"If we do this every year for 100 years, Nebraska would be in it every year," he said.

James Griesen, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said he wasn't surprised by the attention the publication gave to UNL.

"We enjoy a good national reputation here," he said.

He said more and more students had become interested in UNL.

"We are drawing more students because of our reasonable cost," Griesen said.

He said the curriculum at UNL was equal to any other school. Many graduates of UNL go on to pursue graduate degrees at other prestigious schools.

"Our best students compete well with any other students around the country," Griesen said.

Griesen said UNL would continue to improve with the implementation of tougher admission requirements. Keith Benes, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and a senior communications studies major, was one of four UNL students the magazine interviewed.

He said that during the interview he was asked everything from "Are you a Nebraska football fan?" to "Have any professors been a strong influence to you in your college career?"

"What they try to do is give a personal touch to the book," Benes said.

He admitted that when he was looking for a college following high school, he didn't want to go to UNL. But he is happy about his decision.

"I can't imagine going to school anywhere else," he said. "I've had a great experience here."

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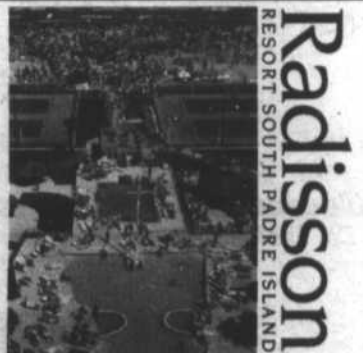
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