

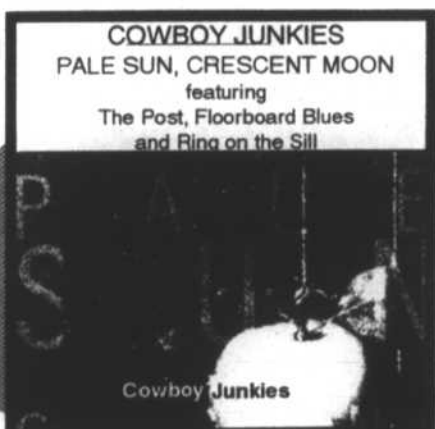


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## Senate

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Oxley said it would be too costly to make a change from the university's 9-point system.

The change would cause grading inaccuracies and confusion, he said.

Under a system with more categories, instructors would make more errors in assigning grades, he said.

"There is a probable chance that many of the grades will be inaccurately reported," he said.

But Ford disagreed. More grading categories would allow instructors to better evaluate graduate students, who usually receive marks above a B, Ford said.

"We really do need ways of distinguishing some students from other students at that level," he said.

In addition, he said, more grade categories would reduce the cost of instructors' mistakes.

"No one ever says the more gradations there are, the smaller the mistakes will be," he said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, agreed with student government members that changing

the grading system would entail costs.

Two grading systems would have to be used in figuring grade point averages and both systems would have to be explained on transcripts, he said.

Oxley said that would confuse potential employers and graduate schools.

But Ford said opponents of the minus system were underestimating the intelligence of employers and other universities that dealt with different grading systems everyday.

"The system we use here is only used by 4 percent of the schools in the country," he said.

"I rely on the intelligence of the employer (and schools)," Ford said. "I don't think it's a problem."

But Griesen said other costs were involved.

The minus system would change the value of letter grades, making a B+, which is worth 3.5 grade points in the current system, worth 3.33 points in the minus system.

This change would force the university to reconsider scholarship and academic policies, Griesen said.

"It can be done, but it's not going to be done without cost," he said.

## Legislature

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In other testimony, Massengale said deferred maintenance was one of the university's biggest concerns.

"Deferred maintenance and infrastructure capabilities are items of growing concern. The university falls far short of repair ... needs," Massengale said.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier told the committee that funds were needed to remove asbestos from Burnett Hall and to renovate Richards Hall.

Spanier said UNL tried to reallocate funds to address deferred maintenance problems, but the problems were too large to be handled within the university's current budget.

"We have tens of millions of dollars of deferred maintenance," Spanier said.

Spanier said UNL also needed funds to expand its outreach programs and to continue developing informational technology and distance education programs. He also requested instructional funds to lower class sizes by offering more class sections.

UNL student regent Keith Benes told senators he was concerned about a trend toward students paying an increasingly higher percentage of the total cost of education.

**How come, if this was such a burr under the saddle, we've never heard a peep about it?**

—Moore  
Appropriations Committee chairman

Benes said deferred maintenance problems needed to be addressed.

University of Nebraska at Kearney Chancellor Gladys Styles-Johnston testified that several buildings on her campus needed renovation funds.

Johnston called the condition of Copeland Hall deplorable and said the library's ventilation was unacceptable.

Weber said his campus needed to expand libraries, revamp its cooling and heating system and repair the roof on the engineering building.

Massengale said the university would testify later in the session in support of Waverly Sen. Jerome Warner's bill to allocate lottery revenue toward the university's deferred maintenance projects.

Massengale also said money was needed to maintain funding for EPSCoR, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. The university is required to match federal funds.

## Vision

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make great wealth," he said.

Steward said students who considered architecture received a broad education—getting training not only in mechanics of buildings, but also in humanities. He said students would have to deal with people as well as drawings.

More than 50 people came to hear the deans answer questions over lunch at the Seward Chamber of Commerce meeting.

In opening remarks, Steward said university and world events dictated what course the university would take.

"(The Vision Statement) is still in draft form, and that's why we're here," Steward said. "There is nothing I can emphasize more than this is your university."

Other questions came about stories of assistants teaching classes instead of professors and foreign professors that had difficulty speaking English.

Edwards said university officials often heard similar stories. He said he hoped the issue was historical, since UNL chancellor Graham Spanier had instituted language requirements for foreign faculty.

Many people misconstrue teaching assistants with junior faculty members, Steward said. He said he would not give an assistant the primary teaching role in a class.

"If anyone hears from a son or a daughter that they are having this kind of difficulty, the chancellor's office needs to know," Steward said.

The tour moved about 30 miles down the road to York, where 12

people gathered in the Chances 'R' Restaurant.

The discussion ranged from telecommunication opportunities to additional stories about university problems.

Edwards said telecommunications offered UNL opportunities to transmit classes to remote locations. The College of Agriculture transmitted an agricultural marketing class via the AGSAT satellite to more than 1,000 people nationwide.

"We have a lot of networks, but we still have a long ways to go," Edwards said. "But it is costly."

Woody Ziegler, a UNL graduate student in education, said he would like to see student fees increased and have the money be put into telecommunications.

Bob Hose of York, a member of the UNL Parents Association, said stories of classes filling up kept some students from going to UNL.

But Hose said those stories were mostly the fault of the students.

Edwards said those problems would soon stop with the addition of the telephone registration system.

"The feedback will be instant," he said. "In the past, there has been a lag (in the) system."

The lag, Edwards said, created problems of classes filling up on seniors about to graduate.

Steward said after the meetings he had expected more focusing on the Vision Statement, but was happy overall.

"I think from those visits the act of being there and the openness is as important as what was said," he said. "The effort to go out to them is critical."