

Letters ask for input on CBA

Vice chancellor hopes feedback is broad, honest

By Angie Brunkow
Senior Reporter

Letters describing the work environment in the College of Business Administration are returning to the Office for Academic Affairs, Joan Leitzel said Tuesday.

Leitzel, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, sent about 125 letters to male and female CBA faculty and staff members early last week requesting their input about the college work environment. CBA was criticized last month

by the UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors for having a working climate "chilly" to women. The Committee W report also criticized the college's procedures for evaluating faculty, deciding salaries and making appointments to graduate or tenure positions.

Leitzel said she thought personal correspondence between individual faculty members and herself was the best way to get an accurate description of working conditions in CBA.

"This is a practical and effective way of getting input," she said.

Other methods, such as personal interviews, would be too difficult to complete, she said.

Leitzel asked faculty and staff to respond to her letter by March 18. Although some faculty and staff

already have responded, Leitzel said she would not read their responses until after the March 18 deadline.

"I'm not going to review it until I have them all," she said.

Leitzel said that because she would be the only one to read the letters, she expected broad and honest feedback about the college's environment.

"It will be informative for me," she said.

Leitzel said she would use the letters to advise "people who can make a difference in the work environment at CBA."

Leitzel declined to release a copy of the letter she sent to the college's faculty.

"It was a personal letter to the people in the college," she said. "It wasn't written for the press."

CFA approves Lied budget increase

From Staff Reports

The Committee for Fees Allocation voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a budget increase totaling \$83,130 for the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

CFA agreed to the 2 percent budget increase earlier this semester. However, the Lied Center's budget increase

was denied by ASUN as part of the University Program Council budget, CFA Advisor Marlene Beyke said.

ASUN President Keith Benes vetoed ASUN's refusal to grant the Lied's increase, and the Lied's budget went back to CFA.

"We wanted to reinstate what we already approved," CFA member Paul Cain said.

Cain said UPC gave a portion of its funding to the Lied Center so students could receive 50 percent discounts.

Tim Bartholow, Lied Center general manager, expressed his thanks to the CFA.

Until now, Lied Center costs have been on the rise and fee support has been decreasing, Bartholow said.

Engineering

Continued from Page 1

couldn't provide much information in the report.

But, the consultants were able to file a competent report, Langenberg said.

"I think we were able to get a pretty good handle on the situation as it exists," he said.

Charles James, dean of the college of engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a member of the consultant committee, said the

consultants had no political motives and no opinions on the issue before they started.

"It was a pretty objective group of consultants," he said.

James said consultants were overwhelmed by the number of people who told them Omaha needed an engineering program separate from Lincoln's.

"The problem put before us by every single group and every person ... was the issue of an independent program in Omaha," he said. "(Some of the issues) we were not in a position to address."

John Christian, vice president of Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation and a member of the committee, said the consultants also had smaller details to consider.

"There is a long history of animosity between (UNO and UNL)," he said.

Christian said, with that history, it was difficult to satisfy the needs of both.

James Halligan, president of New Mexico State University and the fourth consultant, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Bjorklund

Continued from Page 1

for the incident and said there were no other problems with Bjorklund in the remaining 2 1/2 years that Bjorklund sold books.

Barnes also said Bjorklund shared memories of childhood abuse with him.

Christine Taylor, Bjorklund's former girlfriend, said Bjorklund talked to her at length about his adoption and his dropping out of high school.

Despite his personal problems, Taylor said Bjorklund was the type of person who "would do anything for

you."

William Roundey, a private investigator, said he interviewed 35 or 40 of Bjorklund's acquaintances to compile a history of Bjorklund's "formative years" for the defense.

Roundey said a former neighbor of Bjorklund's in the Shelton area claimed Bjorklund was not well-disciplined as a child.

Lacey said Roundey's compiled history of Bjorklund ignored a lot of conflicting information.

On cross-examination Roundey said parts of the report suggested Bjorklund tended to lie.

Roundey also said interviews with Bjorklund's mother made him discount her son's charges that her hus-

band physically abused her.

Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie then submitted as evidence more than 20 trial transcripts from several Nebraska counties.

The defense is arguing Bjorklund should not be sentenced to death when his accomplice is expected to receive life imprisonment. As part of a plea bargain with prosecutors, Scott Barney pleaded guilty to murdering Harms earlier this month.

Helvie said he would resubmit the transcripts at the end of his case to argue that the death penalty was unconstitutional. Helvie said the cases showed the death penalty was applied inconsistently.

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