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SPORTS Silent Sticks

The Nebraska baseball team will try to break out of its hitting slump during this week's series with Oklahoma State.
Page 5


Wednesday
47/28
Today, partly sunny and warmer.



New task force on engineering in the making

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

A task force formed to look into engineering education in Nebraska will be made up of people from the Lincoln and Omaha areas and should be formed in a few weeks, NU spokesman Joe Rowson said.

The task force, to be appointed by University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith, could keep open the debate about establishing a separate college of engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha for another six months.

For Stan Liberty, dean of the engineering college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a decision can't be reached soon enough.

"There is a sense of anxiety that is continuing to build," he said.

And with another task force having to address questions left unanswered by the first group of consultants, anxiety may reach new heights.

The original consultants were asked "to identify critical factors, to assess needs, and to assess how best to match the university's and the state's resources to these needs."

The conclusion made by the team was that an independent college of engineering should be established in Omaha.

"Time and effort, along with some money, were in part wasted (with the first group)," Liberty said, "and now we have the thing probably for another six months."

"I would say that the UNL faculty has shown tremendous resilience."

Rowson said he was confident the new task force would meet their charge within the six-month time limit.

Although the first group took four months, he said, a lot of time was lost just getting everyone together. Members of the first group were from states as distant as Maryland and New Mexico.

Rowson said the new task force would be challenged with developing specific plans for how to implement the consultants' recommendations, including a strategic plan for state, Omaha and Lincoln campuses and the possibility of a new college.

"I'm hoping this will be the way to get to the problem," Rowson said.

Fred Choobineh, president-elect of the UNL Academic Senate, said recent action, including Smith's request to allocate \$200,000 to the Omaha campus for immediate demands, had calmed the debate for now.

"I think this (the allocation) was done to quiet folks until we have enough data to make a long-term decision," Choobineh said.

But in making that decision, the current needs of UNL's college must not be overlooked, he said.

"We have to be conscious of the fact that UNL has a number of unmet needs," he said.

Choobineh cited issues such as instructor recruitment and technology in the classroom.

Choobineh also said he didn't believe there was enough demand to support two engineering colleges in the state, considering the college at UNL already had a lack of funds.

"We have to attend to those (areas) first before we persist in duplicating campuses."



Travis Heying/DN

Construction complete

Ironically, one of the first vehicles to come over the newly completed 10th Street viaduct Tuesday morning was one used to build it. The barricades that averted traffic in the opposite direction for more than a year were removed at 10 a.m., and the bridge was opened to traffic.

ASUN worth sacrifices, Benes says

Outgoing president proud of achievements

By Heather Lampe
Staff Reporter

An extra year of school and little study time during the past year are small sacrifices for the experience of being student body president, outgoing ASUN President Keith Benes said Tuesday.



Wednesday night will signal the end of the presidency for Benes, who plans to broaden his horizons at a law school somewhere other than Nebraska.

A communications studies major, Benes said he gained invaluable experience as president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska that he wouldn't have learned anywhere else.

He said he hoped people would remember him as someone who worked well with the NU Board of Regents and the Nebraska Legislature to get across student views.

"I feel I've learned more than I could even describe," Benes said. "If I gave back to the

university at least as much as I got back, then I'm confident that I served well."

Benes said he made his duties as student body president his top priority.

"I figured that in my classes, my responsibility was just to myself, but as student body president and student regent, my responsibility was to all the students."

In making the ASUN presidency his greatest commitment, Benes said he was able to accomplish a lot in one year.

He is most proud of ASUN's extensive lobbying efforts.

The student senate lobbied the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate to prevent the adoption of a 40-point grading scale. Student senators also did a lot of work on the anti-hazing bill, LB1129, which will receive final reading today.

"It wasn't specifically me, but I was proud of it. I'm glad I got to play a part in the anti-hazing bill," Benes said. "I got to think of the wording of the bill, so that there was a student's point of view."

ASUN also worked with the parking committee during the past year to support some changes, including a proposed parking garage, a restructuring in parking fees and changes in the shuttle service.

Benes also is proud of bringing the green space issue to students' attention.

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— Benes

outgoing ASUN president

"People say that since (administrators) didn't agree with us, they didn't listen. But they did listen, and in the future they will be more tuned to our opinions," Benes said.

Benes said he hoped to be involved in student government in some form next year, but only if he could continue to contribute.

"There's a fine line between hanging on and giving back," he said.

Benes said he could keep involved possibly by helping organize another conference of Big Eight student governments, which UNL hosted this year.

Benes said he would like to help make the conference more formal.

"It has the possibility of growing into an affiliation of student governments that might give us more of a voice. The more people, the more effective you can be."

Proposed smoking ban gets local support

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Few smokers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are fuming about proposed federal legislation to ban smoking in all indoor public places.

A House of Representatives subcommittee is debating legislation that would ban smoking in all places except outdoors and private homes. Smokers would no longer be able to light up at work, in bars or in restaurants.

UNL has already adopted its own smoking ban. Students, faculty and staff are prohibited from smoking in any university building. The only exception is that students living in residence halls can smoke in their rooms.

Should that ban be expanded by the federal government? Many UNL smokers said they wouldn't mind.

Allison Schluchter, a sophomore general studies major, said she supported the proposal.

"I pretty much smoke outside and in my house anyway," she said. "I think people have a right to not breathe my smoke."

Schluchter said there had been a flood of legislation to enforce policies of the anti-smoking movement, but it was only temporary.

"(The anti-smoking movement) is going to go to a certain point and stop," she said. Schluchter said the smoking legislation would stop with the current proposal.

Sean Peters, a sophomore business major, said even though he was a smoker, he did not have any problems with the proposed ban.

"I don't like smoking. I want to quit," he said.

Peters said he had roommates who didn't smoke, so he usually smoked outside.

"It gets a little cold in the winter, but that's no problem," he said.

Smoking probably will not be banned altogether, because the tobacco lobby in Washington is too strong, Peters said. He said banning smoking wouldn't be the worst thing to happen to people.

"Everyone would be better off if they quit," Peters said.

Bill Udell, a freshman biology major and a nonsmoker, said he supported the smoking ban, but he saw both sides of the issue.

"I think as far as the hazards of secondhand smoke goes, I think smoking should be banned," he said. "In terms of personal liberties, I think (the proposed ban) is leaning on infringement, but the benefits far outweigh the infringements."

Tina Ksiazek, a freshman business finance major and a nonsmoker, agreed. She said the

health concerns outweighed the personal infringements.

"If people really want to smoke that bad, they'll go anywhere," she said.

History professor Edward Homze, who smokes a pipe, said he supported the smoking ban proposal. He said smoking should not be considered a constitutional right.

"It's a bad, nasty habit—that's all," Homze said.

The anti-smoking movement may be just a fad, Homze said. In turn, he said, smoking itself may be a fad.

However, Homze said, there is a definite movement in the United States that discourages smoking.

"We've moved away from everybody smoking to where it's less socially acceptable," he said. "We've learned more about it."