

Miller

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of business advisory councils for all colleges in the NU system.

Those councils would seek input from Nebraska businesses when developing the curriculum for their respective colleges, he said. Those businesses would help the councils develop programs and courses for their colleges that are tailored to Nebraska business needs, he said.

Business advisory councils would benefit both Nebraska businesses and university graduates, Miller said.

Many university graduates cannot get jobs with Nebraska businesses, because their education was not tailored to the needs of those businesses, he said. If university programs were tailored to those needs, graduates would be able to get jobs in Nebraska. As a result, business growth would occur in Nebraska, he said.

"It's a win-win situation," he said.

UNO engineering

Miller said he supported the creation of a second engineering program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Creation of a second college at UNO would promote business growth in the Omaha area, he said. But, he said, he is not in favor of duplicating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's engineering program at UNO.

Miller said he also supported the idea of a strong university president. The university should be treated as a system, he said, not as four separate campuses.

"I don't like the idea of feuding campuses," he said. "We need to move away from that."

He said the university also should look beyond the system to other institutions of higher education, public or private, in the state.

For example, he said, if Peru State College has the best history professor in Nebraska, the professor's courses should be available to university students via electronic technology.

Hoch

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She said the regents should support the leadership of the campus chancellors and Smith.

"That is not to say that we should be a rubber stamp," she said. "We should be promoters and partnership builders for the university. Our role is to be advocates for the university."

The regents should help build partnerships between the university, the Legislature and the governor, she said. The regents also should try to build partnerships between the university and other states, she said.

But Hoch said the board should not try to micromanage the university.

"It's important for the Board of Regents to serve as a policy board, not as administrators or managers or to involve themselves in micromanaging at a campus or system level," she said.

Hoch would not say whether she thought the university should create a second engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln currently has NU's sole engineering

college.

However, she praised Smith for setting up an engineering task force to study the issue. The task force is creating an engineering education plan for Nebraska.

"In an increasingly technical world," she said, "as a state, we need to make engineering education a priority in order to continue to develop our economic base."

"But, it's important to remember that there are many areas in which we have to continue to grow."

Budget

Hoch said she also was pleased by Smith's new approach to handling the NU budget. Smith announced earlier this year that he would take control of the budget by overseeing the needs of each campus and communicating those needs to the Legislature.

Hoch said she was proud of the progress that the university had made in the past seven years.

"Certainly we have a lot of problems to solve and challenges to meet, but you can point to any campus and find great progress," she said.

Nancy Hoch

Hoch, a Nebraska City native, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for two years before transferring to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where she earned her bachelor's degree in political science and international relations. She is currently the president of River County Industrial Development Corporation of Nebraska City and Otoe County. Hoch serves on the board of directors for the Nebraska Community Foundation and is president of the State Preservation Council. She also is a member of the Nebraska Economic Developers Association.

Hoch also is one of two advisers to the National Trust for Historic Preservation from Nebraska and is a trustee for the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

Before she became a regent, Hoch served on several university boards, including the President's Advisory Council, the University of Nebraska Medical Center Board of Counselors and the University of Nebraska Alumni Association Board of Directors. Hoch also was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in 1984 and a candidate for governor in 1988.

Drew Miller

Miller, a Lincoln native, received his bachelor's degree in history and international affairs from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. He went on to earn a master's degree and a doctorate's degree, both in public policy, from Harvard University. He also has taken business courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Miller has served as an intelligence officer in the Air Force at the Strategic Air Command headquarters located at Offutt Air Force Base in Sarpy County.

After leaving active duty in 1987, Miller, who resides near Papillion, joined ConAgra as a manager in corporate planning and development.

Miller also serves as chairman of the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners. He also has been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska, teaching mostly public administration courses, and has been a member of the advisory committee for the Nebraska Technical Assistance Center at UNL for several years.

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