

# Donor wanted money split

## UNL dean didn't know intentions of Walter Scott

From Staff Reports and The Associated Press

A requirement that Walter Scott engineering scholarships should be evenly divided between Omaha and Lincoln students was news to UNL's engineering dean.



### ENGINEERING DEBATE

Last week, Walter Scott, chairman and chief executive officer of Peter Kiewit Sons Inc., announced he would suspend the scholarship program at the University of Nebraska in 1995-96. Scott said through a spokesman on Monday that the program hadn't been administered as he had intended.

The scholarship program was named after Scott's father.

Stan Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he wasn't aware Scott wanted the \$75,000 in scholarships each year split evenly between the campuses.

"He himself has approved the awarding of each scholarship," Liberty said. "Only 13 percent of the scholarships went to Univer-

sity of Nebraska at Omaha students in the 1992-1993 school year.

Scott made recommendations for recipients after a committee — made up of Liberty and assistant engineering deans — chose scholars based on class standing, aptitude test scores, extracurricular and cocurricular activities and other factors.

University of Nebraska Regent Robert Allen of Hastings has said he thought Scott stopped the scholarship program to pressure the university to create a second engineering college at UNO. UNL currently has NU's only engineering college.

In a letter Liberty wrote last March to Terry Fairfield, president of the University Foundation, he said Scott had not indicated that he wanted to change the number of scholarships given to UNO students.

Liberty said in the letter that Scott was the only member of the advisory committee for the scholarship program. Liberty met with Scott annually to review all aspects of the program, including the selection of scholarship recipients.

"Consequently, Walter has maximum control over the program and can direct any changes that he wants to within the bounds of the original agreement," Liberty said. "And, in fact, he has done this."

But Liberty said that, in the last few years, Scott indicated he was not interested in participating in the selection of scholars. The last time Liberty and Scott met was in October 1993.

Liberty said in the letter that dividing the award equally between campuses would be a challenge.

The Omaha campus lacks bachelor's degree programs other than civil engineering. Also, few competitive scholarship applicants apply for admission to Omaha engineering programs, Liberty said.

For example, he said, of 67 scholarship applicants this year, none indicated he or she wanted to enroll in Omaha's programs.

Liberty also said in the letter that he and Scott recently changed the scholarship program.

Students already enrolled in engineering technology or civil engineering at UNO could be awarded partial scholarships based on outstanding academic performance after at least two years of study, he said.

"This has assured a continuous population of Scott scholars on the Omaha campus, albeit smaller than in Lincoln," Liberty said. "Walter has had annual reports on this distribution and, so far, has not indicated that he would like to see the number of partial scholarships change."

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