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inside **Monday**

Sports

Penn State dashes Huskers' Final Four hopes, Page 10

Arts & Entertainment

Vacation entertainment preview, Page 14

26°

For the week of Dec. 12-16.

FINALS WEEK EDITION

Engineering projects to be implemented

Finding funds one of the next tasks for Smith

By **Matthew Waite**
Senior Reporter

NU President Dennis Smith said after the Board of Regents meeting Saturday that he would begin implementing his engineering recommendations today.

The University of Nebraska regents voted 7-1 on Friday to approve Smith's recommendation to spend \$4.9 million to improve engineering education in Nebraska.

Smith's recommendations were approved following the board's 5-3

rejection of a second college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Regents Margaret Robinson of Norfolk, Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha and Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo voted in favor of a separate college.

The \$4.9 million would be used to expand master's degree programs, establish new scholarship programs, improve facilities at UNO and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and establish a statewide Engineering and Technology Coordinating Board.

After paying the initial cost, Smith said NU would have to pay \$1.5 million annually for the projects.

The decisions came during a three-hour session, which included testimony from 24 people, including Omaha and Lincoln students, faculty and business leaders.

Smith said he would meet today with NU Provost Lee Jones to discuss

what would be done, both academically and fiscally, to implement those projects.

Smith said one of his first tasks would be to decide how NU would fund those projects. Internal allocations could cover the annual costs for only one year, he said.

After that, those expenses would become a part of the university budget, which requires the Legislature's approval, he said.

To cover the initial costs of the capital construction projects, Smith said NU would look to the Legislature and donors for money. Those projects initially would cost \$3.4 million, he said.

Smith said \$500,000 of the \$3.4 million was for planning a new facility at UNO. He said that money

See **SMITH** on 6

Engineering Decisions

Regents vote down new college; pass engineering education improvements.

■ The NU Board of Regents voted 5-3 against creating a new engineering college at UNO. Regents Margaret Robinson of Norfolk, Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha and Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo voted in favor of a separate college.

■ The regents then voted 7-1 to approve NU President Dennis Smith's recommendation to spend \$4.9 million to improve engineering education in Nebraska. After paying the initial cost, Smith said NU would have to pay \$1.5 million annually for the projects.

■ For more regents' reactions, see page 6.

DN graphic

Engineering vote disappoints some

By **Brian Sharp**
Senior Reporter

Discord has been replaced with disappointment among some players in the 18-month engineering debate.

The new feeling surfaced on the day following the 5-3 vote by the NU Board of Regents against creation of separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The board also approved \$4.9 million for improving existing programs.

Regent Chairman Charles Wilson of Lincoln called on the board and representatives of both campuses Saturday to accept the decision and make it work.

UNO Chancellor Del Weber said he was disappointed with NU President Dennis Smith's recommendation and the regents' decision.

Weber said he realized the issue was complex, but the vote left all control in Lincoln's hands. In that sense, he said, the decision didn't solve the basic issue that caused the problem. Frustrations were heightened

when NU engineering dean Stan Liberty announced Tuesday that he had been asked to resign. Weber said Liberty has said the request was based strongly on the engineering debate.

"I've never felt that Stan Liberty was the problem," Weber said.

The college will now face a critical period without the strong leadership Liberty had provided, Weber said.

Some regents also expressed disappointment with Smith's recommendation and the regents' decision.

Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill, who will replace Margaret Robinson of Norfolk as regent next month, said Smith's recommendation went too far.

Although he agreed that making available advanced degrees and strengthening transfer programs was a priority, Hassebrook said he wasn't convinced that expanding the Lincoln faculty was necessary.

It has never been shown that more

See **REACTION** on 6

NU Regents give nod to incentive program

By **Matthew Waite**
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents unanimously approved contract changes for three University of Nebraska-Lincoln coaches Saturday, but not before members debated the ethics of the move.

The changes could give three NU coaches incentives for winning. Tom Osborne, head football coach, Danny Nee, head men's basketball coach, and Angela Beck, head women's basketball coach, could win \$50,000 for a national championship.

"It smacks more of a bribe," Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said. "If you are going to give away \$50,000, give it to the referees."

Regent Chairman Charles Wilson of Lincoln opened debate on the issue by saying he did not like the message the incentives were sending about NU. He used the 1993 Orange Bowl as an example, where Nebraska lost the game and a national championship with a last-second missed

field goal.

"Is Tom Osborne a \$50,000 better coach if that ball goes through the uprights?" Wilson asked. "No."

Wilson said a coaches performance should be graded on the level of the whole program. He said Osborne was the best coach, running the best program, and should be rewarded for that, not winning.

Regent Robert Allen of Hastings disagreed.

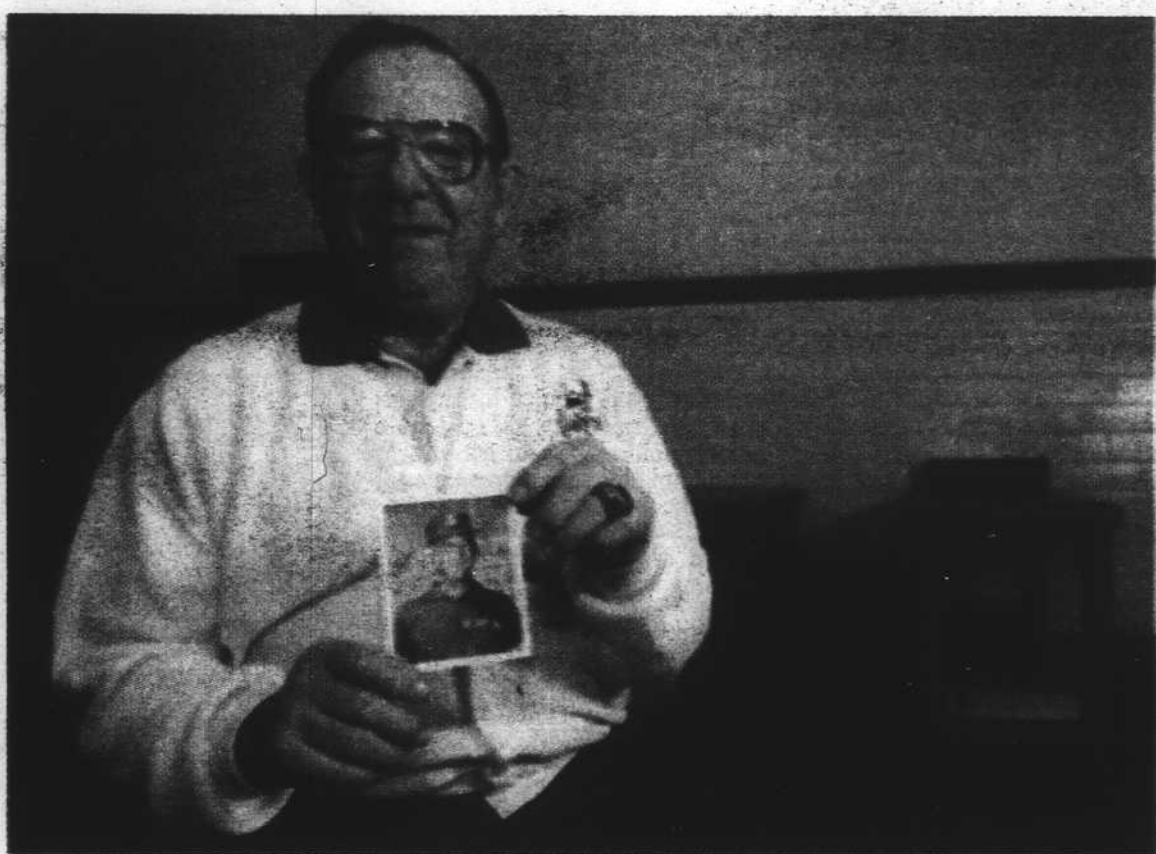
"The nature of the beast is winning national championships," he said. "And I agree (with the changes)."

Regent Don Blank of McCook said all the regents were in favor of merit-based pay.

"It is the nature of the business," he said. "We've got to be competitive."

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said the idea for the incentives came from the athletic department. He said the changes were a way for the school

See **MEETING** on 6



Jay Calderon/DN

George Sullivan, head NU athletic trainer, is stepping down after 42 years on the job.

Notable head trainer to retire

Sullivan recalls 42 years of Husker athletes

By **Trevor Parks**
Staff Reporter

After 42 years of working behind the scenes to keep Cornhusker athletes together, head trainer George Sullivan will retire in the spotlight.

Sullivan first began bandaging and icing athletes as a student assistant on the staff in 1949. As he prepares to leave the program, Sullivan said he has received much notoriety for his work.

"In a way, it has turned out to be glamorous," Sullivan said. "You gain more notoriety than working in a therapy unit from nine to five and just seeing grandpa and grandma."

One instance of fame came this season, when Sullivan received a standing ovation after he was introduced before the Huskers' final home game against Kansas.

"I never realized it was so darn

far across that field," he said.

Sullivan has received accolades from around the country and was awarded the inaugural Tim Kerin Award for Excellence in Athletic Training in 1994.

Sullivan became a full-time trainer in 1953 and has seen many

of his athletes gain notoriety. As they moved into the spotlight, Sullivan said he followed right behind.

"When these young athletes become prominent, they take you right along with them."

But any fame Sullivan received this season was earned.

Sullivan said the football season was hardly typical, with quarterback Tommie Frazier suffering blood clots and Brook Berringer suffering a partially collapsed lung.

"It is a strange one because we haven't had serious orthopedic problems," Sullivan said. "Here we're going into vascular and a lung problem. That's not just a very common thing."

Two players suffered lacerated livers. Linebacker Phil Ellis was

injured in practice earlier this season, and wingback Abdul Muhammad's injury occurred in the 1994 Orange Bowl.

Sullivan's career will end in the spotlight of the Orange Bowl in Miami, when the Huskers play the Miami Hurricanes Jan. 1 for a shot at the national title.

Sullivan said he couldn't imagine what that night would be like.

"It's hard to visualize it," he said. "I told somebody it would be easier for somebody to tell me I only had a short time to live."

Over his tenure, Sullivan has witnessed many changes.

The biggest was the evolution of the football team, which was 3-6-1 in Sullivan's first year. That was before Bob Devaney came to Lincoln in 1962. Nebraska hasn't seen more than four losses in one season since.

Another change came in the athletes, he said.

"One thing that has changed in modern athletes is that you can see a little more structure towards ath-

See **SULLIVAN** on 3