

Conference highlights UNL

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter of the Golden Key National Honor Society held the organization's regional conference this weekend.

The theme for the conference was "Dare to Dream, Dare to Do." The theme represented the city, said David Hengen, conference coordinator.

More than 120 students representing 26 universities were expected to attend, Hengen said. The University of Iowa, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kansas State University and Northwestern University sent representatives.

On Friday, participants learned to make dream catchers, a traditional Native American item.

On Saturday, they attended a lunch at Morrill Hall. Native American dancers performed, and Tom Osborne was the scheduled speaker.

ASUN elects a new speaker of senate

By Melanie Brandert
Staff Reporter

ASUN senators elected Jason Kubik as the new speaker of the senate Sunday.

Kubik, senator for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and Jason Bynum, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, were nominated for the position at last week's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska meeting.

The speaker serves as the chairperson of the Appointments Board and is the spokesperson for the senate.

Kubik said in a speech to senators that he thought the speaker of the senate served three primary functions.

As speaker, he said he would assist senators in drafting legislation and in

taking senators' requests into consideration when appointing senators to committees.

"The job as speaker is to represent them (senators) as a collective body," Kubik said.

He told senators he would feel comfortable representing the senate, as well as students.

"The legislation that becomes drafted out of this body is representative of what the students' concerns are," he said. "It should represent what students are thinking and what students want."

Bynum told senators in his speech that he would try to improve students' image of ASUN by increasing publicity of its services.

"Many students think ASUN is against the students, but actually it's for them," he said.

Cuts

Continued from Page 1

budget. At the same time, the salaries of the 2,830 faculty members make up 34.9 percent of the budget.

At the regents' February meeting, UNL officials released a report to the board outlining several areas that had been redesigned and reduced.

Several sections of the 14-page report highlighted areas of UNL that had been merged or redesigned, causing a reduction in staff.

Of those areas, the office of Business and Finance took the most cuts — 33 jobs removed through mergers and process redesigns.

Regent Drew Miller, an executive at ConAgra in Omaha, said he applauded efforts of downsizing at UNL. But he said turning to the private sector would not always be an option.

"There are hundreds of ways to do this," he said. Miller said he wanted to see more done with less on the administrative end. Money could be freed up for teaching, he said.

Miller said the bottom line was most important when deciding whether NU should be efficient or keep people working.

At ConAgra, Miller said, the past few years have seen large growth in the company with no expansions in staff. He said that if the opposite were true — stagnant growth and addition of employees — changes would have to be made.

Miller said UNL's growth in students would continue to be flat.

"Our work should not be increasing on the administrative side because our student count isn't growing," he said.

Carlson said the university didn't reduce staff across the board because some departments needed to expand while others needed to downsize.

Ten years ago, hazardous waste management needed no employees, he said. Now, it has nine, Carlson said.

With recent increases in money put into research at UNL, support staff for that research has increased, Carlson said.

"You can't expect the people doing the accounting for 50 people to do the accounting for 100 people," he said.

However, Carlson said, Miller's heart is in the right place.

"His desire to make the university work better is right on target," he said. "His goal is a worthwhile goal."

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