

# Senate president plans strategy

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

When Douglas Jose becomes the new president of the UNL Academic Senate Tuesday, he said he would look back on a productive year and toward an active, not reactive, year to come.



Tuesday marks the senate's final meeting of the 1994-1995 academic year. The senate will commence again in September.

Jose replaces current president Fred Choobinch, professor of industrial and management systems engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jose, an agricultural economics professor, was president-elect during the 1994-95 academic year.

The senate had increased its visibility and addressed several topics in the past year, Jose said, such as the engineering debate, the grading scale, the libraries, the sexual harassment

policy and the addition of faculty members.

Although he will not change the fundamental aspects of the senate, Jose said, he will change the presidential approach.

"We want faculty to be more proactive in terms of its relationship with administration, rather than being reactive," he said.

Faculty should be involved with policies in the developmental stage, he said, instead of just reviewing and responding to reports.

The senate should work toward an invigorating academic environment, he said, and recognize the faculty's creative work and research.

The active involvement of departing Chancellor Graham Spanier increased the visibility of the senate, he said. Though he has not talked to Interim Chancellor Joan Leitzel, Jose said, he wants her to participate.

Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor, said the chancellor search would be the dominant theme of the senate next year.

"Graham has been a very active chancellor and has instituted a lot of change," Howe said, "and sometimes

he's gotten a rap on the head.

"There's going to be a lot of chancellor watching."

Jim Ford, executive committee member and associate English professor, agreed that addressing the new chancellor position would be a senate priority.

Ford also said the senate would have an aggressive focus on academic issues.

The university is up for accreditation in two years, he said, and it is important to respond to NU President Dennis Smith's challenge of "academic re-engineering" before that time comes.

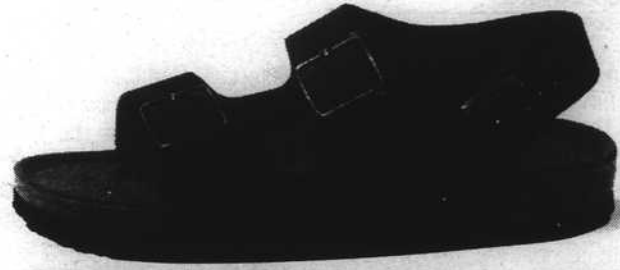
The senate will end its year by addressing the Conflict of Interest Policy, which makes sure grant money is used ethically.

The senate also will honor Henry Holtzclaw Jr., a retired foundation chemistry professor emeritus, with the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award.

The award is presented to a professor who has supported, defended, explained and applied the principles of academic freedom at UNL.

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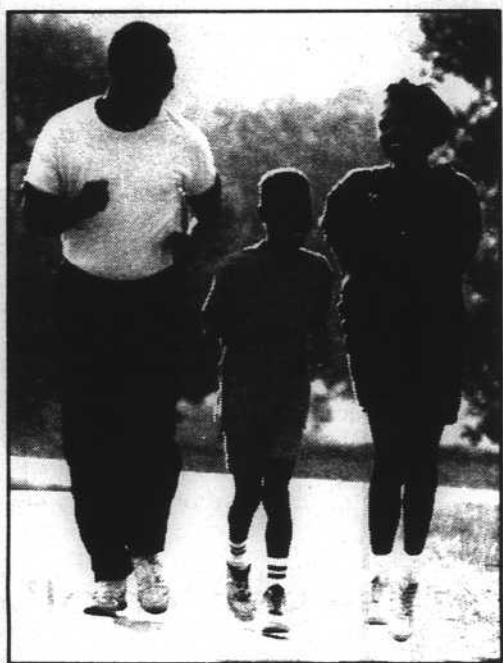
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