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Intro to Netscape

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BE PART OF THE CURE



Lincoln & Omaha

Finalist visits UNL campus

George has 'vision' for future

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Members of the university community finally got a glimpse of the man who has already given them a glimpse into their future.

Thomas George, provost and academic vice president at Washington State University, is one of three chancellor candidates at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

George met with administrators, faculty, students and staff during a reception at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Tuesday. He has been involved with a joint program between WSU and Microsoft called "Virtual WSU," and was commended last week for being wired into the university of the future.

The project will integrate computer technology and communication into all aspects of the university and have every student exposed to "Virtual WSU" by 1999.

Joseph Leung, chairman of the computer science engineering department, said he would like to see George's "Virtual WSU" at UNL.

"Virtual WSU" was started by a professor who applied at UNL two years ago, Leung said, but his department didn't have the funds to hire him.

"We have faculty interested in multimedia in our department," Leung said. "If George comes here, we'd have a lot of interesting things in common."

In a nine-point outline, George defined where he saw UNL in five to 10 years:

- involving faculty, staff and students in team projects
- using technology to enhance teaching and expanding distance, outreach education
- emphasizing interuniversity cooperation

- using teaching portfolios to raise consciousness of the importance of instructors
- bringing in more external funding to raise base funding
- using enrollment management to determine what type of student body the university wants
- having intercampus programs, such as engineering, work together instead of staging a "turf war"
- encouraging funds campaigns
- maintaining pre-eminence in athletics

Jim King, associate professor in communications and information technology, said he admired George's vision for UNL.

"He could carry us into 2020," he said. "Plus, he likes cats and music."

George, and his wife Barbara Harbach, both play the organ, co-own a music publishing company that they run out of their basement, and own four cats.

The couple laughed and joked with guests and exchanged wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.

"George is young, dynamic, aggressive and very bright," said Tice Miller, chairman of the Department of Theater Arts and Dance.

Nancy Lindsley-Griffin, director of the Women Investigating Sciences and Environments project, said she appreciated George's support for racial and gender diversity.

She said George agreed that diversity meant putting more than one minority employee in a department.

"You need a group," she said, "not just a lone voice crying by itself."

The WSU provost was the last of three candidates to visit UNL. George, who said he met NU President Dennis Smith at a Nebraska-Washington State football game, said last week's interview with Smith went "delightfully well."

Smith has said he would make his recommendation to the NU Board of Regents soon after the interviews.

Prospect focuses on money issues

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

There was a time, shortly after World War II, when the importance of higher education wasn't questioned, a UNL chancellor candidate said.

But in recent years, its value has come under increased scrutiny, Thomas George said at a Wednesday press conference. That scrutiny is evident in the decreasing percentage of state funds higher education receives.

In Nebraska, higher education took home 27 percent of the state's budget 15 years ago, he said. Now, it's less than 20 percent.

George, provost and academic vice president at Washington State University, said technology could help improve the perception and funding of higher education.

WSU discovered that while spending \$25 million in the last three years on "Virtual WSU." The program is basically technology enhanced learning, he said.

Yearly costs for the project are \$4 million, he said. Money comes from fund raising and allocations, he said, but mostly from state funds. All this came at a time when WSU faced a 10 percent budget cut over four years.

Despite the cuts, getting money from the legislature for Virtual WSU "has not been a difficult sell," George said — when funding is asked for in terms of investing more in technology and exploration of new ways of education.

Both UNL and WSU are working on the "third phase" of virtual redesign, changing the way people think about education, he said.

Moesser stresses excellence

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

A university must have ethics on the field and academic excellence in the classrooms, a UNL chancellor candidate said last week.

James Moesser, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of South Carolina, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln could benefit from its athletic program and should have a hand in its decisions.

"The president and chancellor control of intercollegiate athletics is critical," Moesser said.

Moesser recommended a chancellor have regular meetings with the athletic director and direct control over hiring coaches.

"My concern for the program is always founded on the basis of personal integrity," he said. "They must be of the highest personal ethics and morals. We want these people to be of personal values."

Student athletes, or any student who represents the university, should have high standards, Moesser said, and they should be treated equally.

"Athletes shouldn't get favored treatment," he said, "and they shouldn't be singled out for harsher treatment."

The candidate also called for high standards in the classroom. Moesser complimented UNL's

honors program and said, if chosen, he would push for a separate honors college.

The college would accept the top 2 percent of high school students and have its own dean, he said, and would target students in and outside Nebraska.

"It's not a costly matter," he said. "It may be more cosmetic, and I might not have to go to the regents."

The university has a responsibility to attract and retain high-quality students, he said, and should also help students afford college in the face of federal financial aid cuts.

"We need merit- and need-based scholarships," he said. "The university will have to step up to the plate to provide more than is currently available."

Along with paying for college, he said, academic pursuit also should not be limited in regards to research.

Limiting research was a highly debated topic with the NU Board of Regents earlier this fall.

"It's a mistake to dictate research," Moesser said. "It's a natural curiosity for students."

The board voted against restricting research to only support projects that benefit the state's economy.

"You can't say to a student that it's not important for you to be interested in an area because it's not profitable to the local economy," Moesser said.

"It's human nature, human spirit to push the envelope of knowledge," he said. "The freedom of inquiry is one of the cornerstones of American democracy."

"It's also the key to the future."

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