

Regents to approve Moeser

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

A minor addition to the NU Board of Regents' December agenda will make a major change at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

NU Regents



Saturday, the board is scheduled to approve the appointment of James Moeser, 56, as the 18th chancellor of UNL.

Moeser, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of South Carolina, was in Lincoln when NU President Dennis Smith announced his recommendation Monday.

He returned Tuesday to Columbia, S.C., and will not attend the Saturday meeting.

The regents' approval is just a formality, and Regents Chairwoman Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said the approval should pass without any problems.

The regents met each of the three candidates at informal dinners and brunches during their campus visits late November.

Upon Smith's announcement, several of the regents and UNL Student Regent Shawntell Hurtgen said they would support Moeser and looked forward to working with him.

Interim Chancellor Joan Leitzel will be present on behalf of UNL at the meeting. Moeser does not take over until Feb. 1.

The board is scheduled to act on other issues, including the elimination of seven UNL degrees in the Teachers College.

These degrees are:

- Art education, bachelor of fine arts education. — Theater arts education, bachelor of fine arts education.
 - Athletic training, bachelor of science education.
 - Recreation, bachelor of science education.
 - Elementary education, bachelor of arts.
 - Administrative office management, bachelor of science education.
 - Health occupation, bachelor of science education.
- The degrees are being eliminated after a 1994 review by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.
- In cases such as elementary education, elimination of a certain degree does not mean elimination of a major. Fewer than 10 students were en-

rolled in many of the programs, which were slowly phased out so the remaining students could still graduate, said David Brinkerhoff, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Future students interested in the eliminated programs may be able to find similar options in other areas, he said.

Other scheduled UNL issues the board will act on include:

- Officially appointing Melvin Jones as vice chancellor for business and finance with a \$140,000 a year salary.
- Approving acquisition of single family residence in the Malone neighborhood for \$38,500.
- Approving budget for replacement of two boilers at the City Campus utility plant and approving Farris Engineering firm to design the project.
- Approving budget for East Stadium repair and waterproofing.
- Approving firm of E & A Consulting Group to design service for the State Capitol Steam Line improvements plan.
- Approving Dorothy E. Leland Memorial Fund as a quasi-endowment fund with income going to the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.
- Reviewing report for University of Nebraska operating budget of \$1.1 billion as of Sept. 30.

Psychiatrist testifies for defense

By Ted Taylor
Staff Reporter

Severe depression and suicidal tendencies kept Gerald Schlondorf from knowing right from wrong on Sept. 12, 1994, a Lincoln psychiatrist told jurors Thursday.



Dr. Lewis Martin, the Chief of Service for the state's Forensic Psychiatric Services, was the only defense witness to take the stand Thursday, the eighth day of Schlondorf's attempted second-degree murder trial.

Martin said he met Schlondorf in 1991, as one of the psychiatrists who evaluated him at the Lincoln Regional Center after a failed suicide attempt.

Martin said the meeting, along with three others after the September 1994 shooting of UNL police officer Robert Soflin, allowed him to construct a psychological history of Schlondorf.

Martin testified that as soon as Schlondorf graduated from high school in 1984, he started to feel more depressed and unhappy.

"He was dissatisfied with what he was doing," Martin said.

Martin said the depression escalated when Schlondorf came to UNL. Although Schlondorf attended six counseling sessions at the University Health Center, he did not benefit from them, Martin said.

Martin eventually diagnosed Schlondorf with having a recurrent major depression disorder.

The doctor specifically mentioned Schlondorf's writings, repeated hospitalizations, documents from those hospitalizations and Schlondorf's peculiar relationship with the police department.

He said the three hospitalizations and the events in the residence halls gave a clear history of recurring depression.

Martin also called Schlondorf's viewing of the movie "Natural Born Killers" just days before the shooting, "a trigger that reactivated ongoing feelings Jerry had manifested about his helplessness, futility and meaninglessness of life."

At the time of the shooting, Martin said, Schlondorf's vision of things were so narrow, he did not know what he was doing was wrong.

"His knowledge was seriously im-

paired because of the depressive disorder," he said.

However, Chief Deputy Lancaster County Attorney John Colborn said he believed Schlondorf's immediate actions Sept. 12, indicated he was aware of right and wrong.

Colborn questioned Martin as to why Schlondorf got in his truck and drove away from police when he was supposedly suicidal.

"He did things to avoid the police, and avoid being shot," Colborn said. "It seems he could have ended his life at any time that day."

Martin conceded Colborn's point. "He obviously knew what he was doing was wrong," Martin said. "In a sense that he knew shooting at police officers was wrong. He knew he wasn't passing out hot dogs at the carnival."

According to Colborn, Schlondorf not only knew his actions were wrong, but were punishable.

Colborn continued his cross-examination by citing a discrepancy between Martin's testimony and a November 1995 police deposition.

In the deposition, Martin had said Schlondorf "knew the wrongfulness of his acts because he expected the police to react."

Local cardiologist Wilson running for regents seat

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

A Lincoln cardiologist is going to make his second bid for a seat on the NU Board of Regents.

Charles Wilson, 57, announced Thursday that he was running for reelection to the eight-member board.

He was first elected in 1990 to represent Lincoln and Lancaster County. Regents serve a six-year term.

Wilson has been a spokesman for several board issues, including open meetings, a strategic agenda and higher admission standards.

"My commitment to pursue excellence in teaching and research at the University of Nebraska is as strong as ever," he said in a statement released Thursday.

"We have moved toward that goal, but much remains to be done. I am seeking re-election to solidify the gains we have made and to work for continued improvements in our university."

In recent issues, Wilson has been:

- Against creating a separate engi-

neering college in Omaha.

- Against defining limits on research.

• For using student-approved student fees for the Nebraska Union expansion.

- Against a board of governor-appointed regents.

- For raising admission standards.

- Against providing financial incentives to coaches to win games, saying pay should be based on merit not wins.

- Against differential tuition, which would charge every student based on his or her field of study.

- For a stronger core curriculum to expose students to courses in mathematics, science and humanities and writing skills.

His work with Regent Drew Miller of Papillion on defining the three roles of a land-grant university — teaching, research and outreach — ended in the declaration of teaching as the university's No. 1 priority.

Wilson is a graduate of Lincoln High School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He and his wife, Linda, have three children.

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FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year, weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9253, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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