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WEATHER:

Today - Partly cloudy. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight - Becoming mostly cloudy. Low 10 to 15.



December 11, 1995

Regents debate new UNO engineering plan

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

A proposal for an information science and technology college at UNO is a weak substitute for an engineering college on the Omaha campus, two regents said Saturday.

NU Regents



The NU Board of Regents reviewed a draft proposal for the Omaha Institute of Information Science, which would be part of a College of Information Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The debate Saturday came one year after the board voted 5-3 against creating a separate engineering college in Omaha. Engineering programs in Omaha are offered through the engineering college at the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln.

Regents Chairwoman Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo and NU President Dennis Smith were in favor of the proposal, but two Omaha-area regents rejected the idea.

"This is not the solution to an engineering college in Omaha," Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said. "It's a bureaucratic nightmare."

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion agreed.

"It's another layer of bureaucracy," he said. "This is not addressing issues of engineering at UNO."

"UNO is totally control-bound by UNL," he said. "Engineering programs at UNO will always take second place to UNL."

The UNO College of Information Science and Technology would group existing programs and could offer degrees in information technology. There are no plans for new programs.

The new college has to be approved by the board of regents and by the Coordinating Commission for

Postsecondary Education.

"It's almost laughable to call this a solution," Miller said.

Without a stronger engineering presence at UNO, he said, the Omaha campus was facing a threat from Omaha's Creighton University, which has plans to enhance its engineering program.

Miller said the best solution to the problem would be to move the department of electronics engineering technology and computer engineering programs to UNO. He said then add the computer engineering classes to an information science and technology college under control of a UNO dean.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln said other cross-campus programs worked well under one-campus control and so should engineering.

The engineering debate was "ego-oriented" and a result of anger concerning "Lincoln pride," he said.

Miller said a UNO engineering

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Board approves elimination of 7 Teachers College programs

By Julie Sobczyk
Senior Reporter

The elimination of seven degree majors in the UNL Teachers College was unanimously approved by the NU Board of Regents Saturday.

Harvey Perlman, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the cuts would not greatly affect students because the majors were largely unused.

"There has been little, if any, enrollment in these areas for the past several years," Perlman said.

And, he said, some of the programs were duplicated in other areas.

The degree majors eliminated are:

- Art education as a bachelor's of fine arts education.
- Theatre arts education as a bachelor's of fine arts education.
- Athletic training as a bachelor's of science education.
- Recreation as a bachelor's of science education.
- Elementary education as a bachelor's of arts education.
- Administrative office management as a bachelor's of science education.
- Health occupations as a bachelor's of science education.

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Scott Bruhn/DN

Speaking before lighting the 25-foot-tall, 10-year-old state Christmas Tree, Gov. Ben Nelson Sunday encouraged Nebraskans to think about those less fortunate than themselves during the holidays.

O Tannenbaum Nelson lights tree, encourages giving

By Tonya Cross
Staff Reporter

Camcorder lights blinked and camera lights flashed Sunday afternoon, as an eager crowd waited in the Capitol rotunda for Gov. Ben Nelson to light the 25-foot-tall state Christmas tree, decorated with ornaments from different counties.

But first there was music to be played at the 48th annual Nebraska State Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. A brass quintet alternated pieces with the Holy Trinity adult hand-bell choir.

The Rev. Lee B. Spitzer, pastor of the First Baptist Church, prayed for families and

*"As you brighten their lives,
your life will be brightened,
too."*

BEN NELSON
Governor

friends inflicted with hardships during the Christmas season. He dedicated the tree to those suffering in Bosnia and wished a time of joy for children everywhere.

Nelson said the holidays were the time of year for giving, and all those who helped with the ceremony gave of themselves to

make it special for everyone.

Nebraskans need to make a difference, he said, and give to those less fortunate.

"As you brighten their lives, your life will be brightened, too," Nelson said.

Finally, the anticipated moment arrived. Nelson and the crowd began counting down from five.

As everyone said "one" in unison and Nelson pushed the button, the tree was aglow. Children beamed; and adults cheered and again joined in chorus.

Spitzer closed the ceremony in another prayer: "May the blessing of God almighty be with each and every one of you as you return to your homes."

Commercial provider to handle dial-up

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Ever connected to the UNL modem pool on the first try on a weekday evening?

You will — but not without a price.

Because an increasing number of off-campus computer users accessing the campus modem pool has saturated the system, UNL Information Services plans to hand over dial-up HUSKERNET access to a primary service provider, possibly by the end of this week.

Kent Hendrickson, associate vice chancellor for Information Services, said he was 80 percent sure a commercial provider would be selected.

"We hoped we could do it before the university closed down," he said. "But there is no guarantee of that."

Hendrickson said the number of users accessing the network from off-campus increases almost every day, and keeping up with the demand has become difficult.

"We don't have the funds to consistently add to the modem pool," he said. "It's becoming over-burdened again. People are having trouble getting on to the pool, and response time is slow."

Bids from Internet Nebraska, Lincoln Telephone and MCI all met the university's requirements, Hendrickson said.

Students and faculty wishing to access the system from off-campus computers will be asked to pay about \$10 a month for 40 hours of on-line service.

Hendrickson said complaints had increased as the user list gets larger and larger.

"You are going to get better access and better service," Hendrickson said. "If we don't do this, service is likely to deteriorate more than it is now. We might have to introduce levels of service, and I don't want to do that."

The Computational Services and Facilities Committee reported to the Academic Senate on Dec. 5 that 10 more phone lines would likely solve the immediate problem.

The current pool contains 112 modems, all of which are generally in use during peak evening hours.

"The idea is to provide a service where people won't be getting busy signals," said

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