

Engineering

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college should get another look if UNL fails to deliver with the Lincoln-based college, he said.

Interim UNL Chancellor Joan Leitzel said Miller should not have seen development of the institute as an attack from UNL.

"As he comes to understand, he'll see he has a misunderstanding," she said. "This will facilitate and develop engineering programs at UNO."

The institute took little notice when its wheels started rolling in September, at which time Leitzel said it was a "complementary program to (UNL's) engineering programs ... not an overlap."

The proposal was prepared by Ernest Peck, UNO vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Harvey Perlman, UNL interim vice chancellor for academic affairs.

O'Brien also helped with the proposal and called it the "framework for an exciting concept, and

the means by which we can provide for growth and development of new programs at UNO."

Smith said the institute combined disciplines under one roof and showed "collaborative, team-oriented leadership."

An angered O'Brien tabled discussion until the board's two-day Jan. 19 and Jan. 20 meeting, when it will vote on the proposal.

Saturday gave a first taste of the public engineering debate to James Hendrix. Hendrix, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, took over the college this summer after then-Dean Stan Liberty was removed amid controversy.

Hendrix said he doubted the institute would dredge up last year's heated debates over the separate engineering college in Omaha.

The debate took a lighter tone earlier in the meeting when departing UNO student regent Justin Peterson gave Smith a sweat shirt with "UNO College of Engineering" printed on the front.

"Yeah, he'll wear it," someone shouted, "inside out."

Medieval major awaits approval

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

The age of chivalry and cathedrals, the time of Renaissance artists Botticelli and Michelangelo, the era when cities like Florence, Italy, flourished as the intellectual and cultural centers of the Western world — these soon may be the focus of some students' studies at UNL.

A major in medieval and renaissance studies may be available next year, said Paul Olson, the program's coordinator.

The program needs its last seal of approval from the Commission for Postsecondary Education, he said.

The interdisciplinary program already supports a minor, which combines courses from the departments of English, modern languages, philosophy, history, music, art and theater.

Pamela Starr, chairwoman of the program's curriculum committee, said medieval and renaissance studies con-

centrated on the time period, not the topics.

"It allows them to see the whole picture," she said. "They can make cultural and historic conclusions."

The major will require students to take 30 hours of medieval and renaissance courses: six in history, three in literature, three in art, music or philosophy, three in interdisciplinary seminar and 15 hours of electives, Starr said. Eighteen hours are required for a minor.

Medieval and renaissance studies majors will have new classes offered to them, Starr said. The curriculum committee is developing "Shakespeare's World," which combines studies of English, history, music and theater into a single course, she said.

English Professor Robert Haller is beginning a course that studies culturally rich cities of the time period, such as Florence, Paris or Geoffrey Chaucer's London, Starr said.

Olson said the major probably

would give students an opportunity to study for a semester in Italy, France or Greece. Students could visit the places where the remnants of the time were created.

If students found the trip worthwhile the first time, they would give it a good reputation to keep it going in the future, he said.

"There's a good bit of enthusiasm about it," Olson said. "I think all these semesters abroad depend on the success the first couple times."

A student with a degree in medieval and renaissance studies has a strong humanities background, Olson said.

Last year, more people were hired in medieval and renaissance studies than any other area of the humanities, he said.

The program also helps supplement other majors, Olson said. A law student, for example, could learn the precedents and theory developed in medieval England, which influenced the legal system in the United States, he said.

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