

UNL programs get low ratings

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Low ratings for doctorate programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln shouldn't be a problem the next time programs are evaluated, a UNL vice chancellor said Monday.

Priscilla Grew, vice chancellor for research, said a National Research Council study completed in September 1995 ranked all but three UNL doctorate programs in the lower half nationwide.

The study, which was conducted in the spring of 1993, measured the quality of the university's doctorate programs by evaluation questionnaires given to university faculty across the nation, Grew said.

UNL's departments of chemistry; biochemistry and ecology; evolution and behavior were the only three that scored in the upper half of all departments evaluated.

Ten of the 21 programs studied — including philosophy, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, history and economics — ranked in the bottom quartile.

But Grew said the study didn't truly represent the quality of the doctorate programs at UNL because it was based on other faculty's perceptions.

"There is an effect that skews the results of these studies," she said.

In 1993, when the study was done, UNL was ranked 112th for federal research funding, Grew said.

UNL's research funding for the 1992-93 fiscal year was \$20.2 million. Last year it was \$29.6 million. The ranking for last year was not available because of the federal government shutdowns.

Grew said she wasn't surprised UNL got low rankings during a time when research funding was low.

Former Chancellor Graham Spanier was credited with raising more

funds for doctorate research since then, Grew said. In one program, Spanier allocated research money to the deans to match funds for research proposals, Grew said.

Brian Foster, dean of the College of Arts and Science, started a program called Areas of Strength, Grew said, in which professors teamed up for interdisciplinary research.

The doctorate agriculture programs at UNL weren't evaluated in the study but would have been ranked at the top, she said.

"It's really kind of unfair we can't include that in the research," Grew said.

Another effort in which the university will work with other colleges on research could give UNL more exposure and a higher reputation among faculty nationwide, Grew said.

"Hopefully next time they get a questionnaire, they'll know about our program."



Scott Bruhn/DN

Author Warren Blumenfeld told an audience of more than 40 people Monday afternoon in the Nebraska Union that he sees the end of problems with homophobia.

Blumenfeld

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portray same-sex couples.

"Sex is discussed as only white, working class and heterosexual," he said.

If homosexuals did not face stereotypes and harassment, it would be easier for a person to say that he or she is gay, lesbian or bisexual, Blumenfeld said.

Instead, Blumenfeld said, homophobia forces homosexuals into rigid gender roles, diverting energy from more constructive endeavors, restricting development of a self-identity and inhibiting a societal response to AIDS.

Information and education about AIDS is lacking in schools, Blumenfeld said.

"I just think about young people growing up today who fear messages like this and who fear derogatory comments."

WARREN BLUMENFELD
author

"So consequently many people die from it. And homophobia is the one pushing it," he said.

To combat homophobia, he said, homosexuals can attend lesbian, bisexual and gay events, challenge homophobic jokes, monitor media coverage, initiate serious discussions and develop support groups.

Nelson distributes funds to combat homelessness

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Fifty-five community-based non-profit programs in Nebraska now have a bit more money to tackle the state's increasing homelessness problem.

Gov. Ben Nelson announced Monday during a telephone news conference that \$1.1 million would be distributed throughout the state to assist programs combating homelessness.

"Unfortunately, there continues to be Nebraskans who find themselves homeless or on the brink of being homeless," he said.

An October study revealed that 320,000 Nebraskans were near homelessness — at risk of becoming homeless within the year.

The money will be awarded through the 1996 Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, which is made up of the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund and the Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

But the state will not receive all of the federal funding it should because of recent budget problems in Washington, D.C.

Communities throughout the state, including small rural areas, would use

the funds to provide permanent or temporary shelters and assist families with rent.

Seven regions across the state received funds ranging from \$25,000 to \$380,000.

Nelson emphasized that homelessness in the state did not end in metropolitan areas and was beginning to spread to rural communities as well.

Del Bomberger, director of the Lincoln Connection center in North Platte said residents were surprised that most of the town's homeless population were not transients.

"We serviced just over a 1,000 people in our first year," he said, "and a majority of services went to North Platte residents."

"The smaller communities, just like the larger towns in the state, have problems."

Bomberger said that of the 1,000 people his program assisted last year, 350 were locals, and of the 5,500 total nights of shelter, two-thirds were occupied by North Platte residents.

"We really appreciate the state stepping in and funding something like this," he said. "Nebraska is ahead of the ball game."

Students can donate blood this week

By Patty Wewel
Staff Reporter

The UNL Campus Red Cross wants to drain your blood today. Don't worry — the Red Cross won't take all of your blood.

The annual blood drive takes place today and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Centennial Room at the Nebraska Union.

Students who want to donate blood should bring either their student identification or their social security card, said Jeana Schmid, the blood drive's co-coordinator.

Also, those wishing to donate should eat at least two to four hours before they donate.

Schmid, a junior biology major, said the goal for the two-day drive was 550 donations.

The blood drive is held in conjunction with the American Red Cross, the community blood bank and the health aide program.

Firemen investigate fraternity gas leak

A natural gas leak sent members of Kappa Sigma fraternity to the sidewalk Monday evening to watch firefighters monitor gas levels in the fraternity house.

Eric Fugleberg, a sophomore fraternity member, said he and some other members of the house were in the kitchen doing dishes after dinner when they smelled gas coming from an old stove.

They had turned on the stove, which hadn't been used in a few years, during dinner to keep some catered food warm, he said. The stove had just been repaired, Fugleberg said.

Deputy fire chief Dean Staberg said the leak was potentially dangerous but was under control.

— Erin Schulte

49¢

Tacos

Soft Pinto Burritos



SPRING BROKE?

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