

Chancellor says UNL will not tolerate violence

University to crack down on cheating, conduct violations

By Matthew Waite
Editor

When University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser came to Lincoln this spring, he walked into a campus still feeling the effects of the Lawrence Phillips incident.

When Phillips assaulted a former girlfriend in October, a task force was formed by then-interim Chancellor

Joan Leitzel to look into campus behavioral problems.

On Thursday, June 6, Moeser released the final report from the committee to the media.

In a press conference that lasted a little over an hour, Moeser said UNL was not a campus in trouble — financially, academically or socially — but that didn't mean the work was finished.

"We are not in crisis over student conduct," Moeser said. "This is a safe campus."

But the nice rhetoric stopped there. Replaced with a "get-tough" attitude, Moeser outlined changes in the way UNL conducts discipline.

While he said the report dealt with many areas, much of Moeser's speech — and the following discussion — was about violence committed by UNL students.

"We will not tolerate violence" Moeser said. "We will insist on a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the institution."

"Representing this university is a privilege, not a right."

Recommendations made by the committee included:

- The university adopting a zero-tolerance policy of abusive or violent behavior that disrupts the community by threatening the health or safety of any person or persons.

- The university consistently enforcing existing alcohol policies on campus. The report claims that research shows a correlation between alcohol and violence. It also says that the policy is sound, the enforcement, however, is inconsistent.

- When more than one violation of the Student Code of Conduct is committed, actions will be taken on all charges. Currently, a second charge of consuming alcohol on campus is often dropped by the judicial board if the first charge is punishable.

- A file will be maintained by the judicial board on all academic dishonesty offenses. The board will now track the offenses.

"We do not want to graduate students who are repeat offenders of academic dishonesty," Moeser said.

- That the Athletic Department, which bore the brunt of most of the public scrutiny for violence on campus, be held responsible for providing a harassment-free environment for women. Also, an external consultant would be brought in to review the climate for women.

- The ban on guns on campus, which currently only applies to students, would be extended to faculty and staff.

Moeser said he was "absolutely

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