

University gains prestige in U.S.

UNL's ratings rise; Moeser sets expectations during address

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percent budget, Moeser said. And programs to increase cultural diversity among UNL faculty, staff and students received about \$709,000 — the largest chunk of reallocation funds.

Some of that money will create a Targets of Opportunity fund, from which UNL departments and colleges can borrow money to help recruit talented minorities for faculty positions and place women in senior-level positions at the university.

Other money will help recruit minority students into engineering and technology majors and support minority and women graduate students.

The reallocation process will also increase the number of faculty positions at the university and support the "core mission of the university — teaching, research and service," Moeser said.

The university's support for its honors programs will also increase by \$619,000 this fall, he said. UNL will spend the money to recruit and instruct high-ability students, enable more undergraduate research opportunities, pay for additional teaching assistants in honors courses and expand the honors curriculum.

Moeser said the university will follow the reallocation process by assessing its strongest Ph.D. and research programs and further strengthening those programs.

"Our future as a major national institution will probably rest on the strength of 10 to 15 graduate or professional programs," he said.

This fall, Suzanne Ortega, sociology professor and associate dean of graduate studies, will lead the assessment, Moeser said.

The selected graduate and research programs will highlight the university's move to create a more rigorous academic environment "alive with the electricity of intellectual discourse," Moeser

said. "I don't want this university to be known anywhere for easy courses," he said. "We need to push our students to perform at their very best ability, to grade them highly when they achieve and appropriately lower when they do not."

New admissions standards for this fall resulted in the best incoming freshmen class in the history of the university, Moeser said. The freshmen to sophomore dropout rate should quickly fall from last year's 25 percent, he said. The percent of students who graduate within six years should also rise from 50 percent, he said.

Moeser called on faculty to help the more prestigious freshmen class and other students learn through participation and experimentation rather than just through traditional lectures. He said students today learn differently than when he attended classes at the University of Texas at Austin.

Students have spent most of their lives in an electronic environment, and faculty must adapt their teaching styles to student's new learning styles, he said.

Students also must be pushed to appreciate diverse cultures, Moeser said.

"I do not believe many of our students are racists, but I do believe that some are ignorant of other cultures and often deaf and blind to the issues that are of great significance to others," Moeser said.

Moeser said he envisioned the UNL campus as beautiful and comfortable for people of all backgrounds. Such a campus requires that an atmosphere of respect exists where campus disagreements may spark controversy and debate, he said, but the opinions of those involved are understood without personal hatred.

Money allocated to increasing diversity cannot create such a campus environment, he said.

Moeser touts distance learning

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln should maintain its position as a leader in distance education and outreach by hiring a new vice chancellor for extended education, Chancellor James Moeser said Friday.

"Without a clear strategy for the future, we may not be able to maintain that lead," Moeser said during his annual State of the University speech. "We desperately need a vision for what we want to be five years from now."

"We need someone to provide coordination and leadership in this important new field."

Moeser said he would ask the NU Board of Regents to approve the new position and would recommend Irv Omtvedt, last year's interim senior vice chancellor, for the job.

Omtvedt will continue to serve as vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Research.

The new position would help dismantle the misconception that students are all 18- to 21-year-olds who attend courses on a college campus, Moeser said. "A small business person in Scottsbluff, a farmer in Minden or an information officer at an Omaha bank" are also candidates for learning through distance education, he said.

Omtvedt said should the regents create his new position, he would determine the need for dis-

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JAMES MOESER
chancellor

tance learning statewide and find those geographic and academic areas where UNL could best provide education and outreach.

"We know we can't do all things for all people," Omtvedt said. "Our challenge will be to determine where we will get the greatest return on our investment in terms of making the greatest contribution to the future of Nebraska."

UNL's greatest demand for distance education may come from professional Nebraskans seeking graduate degrees, Omtvedt said.

For example, 18 women received their master's degrees this month from the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences. None of the students attended classes on campus, Moeser said.

Moeser said the university will not neglect its campus in favor of the "virtual university," however.

"Having a beautiful campus is a critical part of the aesthetic environment we want to have," he said. Regents approved a tuition increase of 4.5 percent this summer, including 1.5 percent to pay for building maintenance on campus, he said. UNL administration

will request similar 1.5 percent increases every year for three years to continue funding maintenance projects, he said.

Extensive renovations at Richards Hall begin next year, Moeser said, and renovations will follow on Love Library South, Avery Hall and Hamilton Hall.

Moeser suggested that a single new building could replace both Bancroft and Lyman halls, and UNL should build a new research facility to replace Biochemistry Hall.

In addition to the \$11 million in state funding the university will receive for maintenance and buildings projects in the next two years, the university continues to campaign for private funding of construction projects. Right now \$40 million in construction projects wait to receive private funding, he said.

All new physical improvements to the UNL campus will be detailed in a new campus master plan that will map new construction and building design, address the shortage of parking space on campus and maintain the high quality of landscaping on campus, Moeser said.

New garage brings parking relief

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50 cents each additional hour with a maximum of \$3.75 daily. The lot will be open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.

Christina Blackmer, a senior dietetics major, thought the parking garage was a good idea and hoped that it would ease parking shortages.

"Parking is such a pain," Blackmer said. "People literally fight for spots."

But Blackmer was skeptical about the price for the year. Last year she didn't buy a permit and thought she ended up paying more for parking at meters than she would have if she had bought a permit.

"If I only had one or two classes a day I might consider parking there," Blackmer said.

Todd O'Connell, a junior business major, said he already purchased a permit and didn't want to spend any more money on parking.

In addition to the new parking garage, an 85-stall faculty and student lot was built on the west side of the garage. To be able to park in this lot, students have to buy a 12 month permit for \$300; faculty can buy one for \$360.

O'Connell said he didn't think the \$300 permit was worth it.

"It is not that much closer than the green lots," O'Connell said. "I have classes early in the morning and have never had a problem finding a spot in

the green lots."

The parking garage and lot replace 140 staff and faculty spots and 60 meters that were in the old lot. With the addition of the garage and lot, the number of parking spots tripled along 10th Street and T Street.

Faculty who parked in the old lot were moved to a lot north of the garage and Big Red Shop. The lot north of Memorial Stadium was converted from staff and student parking to green student permit use only.

McDowell said the garage and other lots were built to help meet the parking needs of visitors, staff and faculty.

"We hope the garage will help meet some of the unmet demand for 1,200 permits," McDowell said.

Besides parking, the new garage will also house new UNL Parking and Transit Services' offices, a snack shop, an observatory, the first indoor shuttle bus stop, the NU Athletic Department Ticket Office, a satellite UNL police station and a Huskers Authentic sports retail store.

Huskers Authentic will occupy 5,500 square feet of the garage's ground floor. The store is scheduled to open Friday and will have 25 television screens that will show HuskerVision during game days and past Husker games on off-days.

The Bakery is expanding and will open a second shop in the garage to compliment its Nebraska Union shop. Flavored coffees, yogurt, sandwiches, salads, baked goods, popcorn, sodas, and juices will be available at the shop, which will open in late October.

Parking Services' offices will move from 1941 Y Street to the garage Sept. 29.

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