

Regents OK deficit request

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Sar-Ben acreage. NU President Dennis Smith said the university cannot cover these costs, which were unforeseen when the university presented its Fiscal Year 1997-99 Biennial Budget Request to the Legislature last spring.

The union funding request reached the Legislature's appropriations committee too late for consideration.

And the 55 acres at Ak-Sar-Ben were part of a 70-acre plot donated by First Data Resources in May after the university submitted its budget request, he said.

Maintaining the acres is not linked to legislative funding of the new Peter Kiewit Sr. Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which occupies an additional 15 acres at Ak-Sar-Ben, Smith said.

Nancy Belck, chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said the acres that require a deficit budget request would be maintained at the same standard as the rest of the Omaha campus.

The area is now "all bulldozed and mud," she said, and the university vowed to uphold a higher quality of landscaping upon receiving the gift worth about \$55 million, she said.

Smith said another "totally unanticipated" funding shortfall resulted from a 900-person drop in graduate enrollment and 800-person drop in undergraduate enrollment caused by Nebraska's robust economy and job market.

Enrollment declined by about 2,500 students between the four NU campuses, but the university expected only about 30 percent of that figure. This unforeseen decline, including 20,095 lost student credit hours, translates into a tuition shortfall of \$1,418,000, he said.

"I would love to be able to cover this internally," he said, but the university isn't allowed that flexibility under state law.

The university cannot dip into its reserve funds to cover this expense without Legislators' approval, he said.

The university's loss of tuition tops \$2.4 million, Smith said, but the university budgeted for much of the

"I think it's a big mistake to go back to the governor and the Legislature and the taxpayers and ask for money."

DREW MILLER
NU regent

undergraduate enrollment drop, which it expected when UNL raised its admissions standards this fall.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser has said he expected fewer students to apply for admission, because many feared rejection under the stricter new requirements.

Miller continued to suggest the university should cover its deficit funding requests, first saying UNL could find the funding and then asking why the NU Foundation couldn't cover the requests. The foundation recently raised its fundraising campaign goal to \$375 million, he noted.

UNL recently reallocated about \$400,000 to create an Opportunities Fund that will assist departments in recruiting senior women and minorities to fill faculty positions. Miller twice asked why UNL couldn't reroute this funding.

"Those are salary dollars," Moeser said. "We're going to be paying people with that money. We'd have to cannibalize our reallocation process to do that."

Wilson said he found Miller's requests from the NU Foundation unfair. Most donors to the foundation specify how their gift must be spent, he said.

"You can't just transfer these funds around randomly just because you want to spend it somewhere else," Wilson said.

In other action, the regents: ■ Approved a change in regents' policy regarding how University Program and Facilities Fees are spent.

Student groups can now petition the University Program Council for annual funding once every two years instead of once every four years.

UNL Student Regent Curt Ruwe said the change affects the University of Nebraska-Kearney and UNO campuses

more than UNL, because UPC frequently co-sponsors events on campus with student groups, which gives them frequent funding support.

■ Approved a lease agreement for space in Norfolk's new Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College Campus.

On Dec. 1 UNL will move its Northeast Research and Extension Center headquarters from Concord to 6,050 square feet of space in the new facility.

The first-year rental fee would be about \$57,000 and would increase by 2 percent each year thereafter for 20 years, after which point the university will cease paying rent. The operations and maintenance fee would start at about \$21,000 annually and continue for the duration of the lease.

Irv Omtvedt, UNL vice chancellor for extended education, said the Norfolk location would be accessible to most people living in northeast Nebraska and would serve as "an excellent outreach point for the university."

■ Heard a report from Janis Somerville, senior associate for the University of Maryland System, who asked the university to join the nationwide K-16 Initiative, which asks elementary, junior high and high school educators to work together to develop common goals for educating students and produce better teachers.

Smith and many regents said they would support setting such goals in Nebraska.

■ Approved renaming the UNO Institute for Science, Technology and Engineering the "Peter Kiewit Sr. Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering."

Peter Kiewit Jr. recently donated \$15 million from his late father's estate to build the institute.

Purchase of Reunion approved by regents

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Regents

The NU Board of Regents members bickered Friday over whether the university should purchase the Reunion Building at 16th and W streets.

Some board members suggested the university should not have to purchase the \$1.27 million building from the NU Foundation, because the foundation could donate it.

Others defended the foundation, which University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser dubbed "the best friend to this university." Moeser also called expecting the foundation to donate the building "ridiculous."

Regents later unanimously approved the \$2.16 million measure, along with a proposal to renovate the former Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity house at 420 University Terrace on the UNL campus.

The university must renovate the house to make room for campus entities now housed on the 1200 block of R Street, Moeser said.

A construction company will destroy those buildings to make room for a new Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater and Visitors Center, for which the university should soon finish raising money.

The university now has about \$3.5 million in private donations to build the visitor's center, Moeser said. No date has been set to begin its construction.

"It's a critical move," he said. "We need to do it now. The Temple (Building) block is critical to the interface between the City Campus and the city of Lincoln."

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion suggested the NU Foundation could pay either for the renovations or for the Reunion Building, which it now owns.

The foundation was highly successful in raising money and recently increased its capital campaign goal to \$375 million, he said.

But NU President Dennis Smith said donors to the foundation specify how the university must spend their gifts.

"Foundation money is not available" for other projects, Smith said. "I find that hard to believe," Miller said.

Moeser said he doubted a donor would step forth to pay for either structure, since donors seldom fund

renovations or care to buy an old warehouse on the edge of campus.

"I can't speak for the foundation, but I think that would be a ridiculous request," he said.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walt Hill said he agreed, because the foundation and the university are vital to each other's survival.

"At some point ... we're king of robbing Peter to pay Paul," Hassebrook said.

Regardless of their funding source, both structures are necessary, Moeser said.

The Reunion Building will house the UNL Department of Art and Art History so its current location in Richard Hall can be largely refurbished, he said.

Other university departments and entities may use the 65,500-square-foot building when other buildings are renovated on campus, he said. The University Museum now uses the building's top floor for storage space and exhibit preparation.

Paul Carlson, UNL associate vice chancellor for business and finance, said the building consists of two main floors and a basement. The ground floor, which is now built to accommodate fast food restaurants, will need renovations before housing office suites.

Parking around the building will remain available for commuters with Area 20 permits, Carlson said.

After renovations are completed on the former Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity house, the Academic Senate Office, Ethnic Studies, the Office of International Affairs, International Studies and Summer Sessions will move into the structure, which contains about 15,240 square feet of space.

"We feel that the space is pretty tight," said Peter Bleed, former Academic Senate president. "When it was first proposed, we were going to have a fair amount of room in the Tau Kappa Epsilon house."

But more organizations now will share the space, he said.

Bleed said the location didn't bother him, because the senate was formerly housed in the 501 Building at 10th and T streets.

No date has been set to begin renovations on the house.

RHA passes legislation against discrimination

BY SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

RHA

RHA is taking a look at the bigger picture when it comes to discrimination, President Ben Wallace said at Sunday's meeting.

The Residence Hall Association passed a non-discrimination bill that calls for respect and dignity for all members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community to better the learning environment.

"We passed a similar bill to this one last year, right after the Sigma Chi cross-burning," Wallace said. "This bill comes in response to last week's homophobic chalking."

"Events like these are happening on campus every year, and it's not enough for RHA or ASUN to pass a resolution any more and say it's bad. We need to take action."

Social Events Chairman Rob Holburn, who worked on writing the bill, said he wished this statement came under less reactionary terms.

"I do think this bill is addressable

to any situation of discrimination, and it says this kind of thing is something we will not accept, tolerate or take part in," Holburn said.

Wallace called for the senate to take action against discrimination.

"We need to go beyond resolutions," he said. "We not only need to pass this bill, but we also need to follow it up with education."

RHA also discussed the allocation of funds for its annual spring Residence Hall Semiformal.

The money for the event is taken from the SA/Floor Hall Programming Fund. The representatives were asking for \$1,000.

RHA was unable to come to a decision, so the bill was tabled until its Nov. 2 meeting.

RHA also passed a bill to give \$500 to the Nightmare on 16th Street Dance at Abel Residence Hall on Oct. 29.

RHA will be going on its annual retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling on Saturday.

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