

Residence halls approved for UNO

REGENTS from page 1

"We can't afford to create a situation where we have to develop programs at UNO that are already offered at UNL," he said.

Wilson said he also was concerned that the land UNO acquired for the new Institute of Science Technology and Engineering at the Ak-Sar-Ben property in Omaha would be used for residence halls in the future.

UNO Chancellor Nancy Belck said traditional residence halls — those used by underclassmen — were not an option for the Ak-Sar-Ben site.

Instead, she said, an apartment-style dormitory could be built, although she said "there are no plans on the table."

NU President Dennis Smith agreed. "I have advised the chancellor (at UNO) that I think additional housing at Ak-Sar-Ben is important."

Smith said he envisioned the IST&E as a place that would be visited by scholars and business people who come there to work. He said special residence halls could serve as a place for those visitors to stay.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha echoed the opinion of Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo who said UNO was no longer a "commuter campus," but instead, an "urban university."

"This board is elected by the people to exercise foresight, not

hindsight," Skrupa said. "Times have changed — we have to plan for the future."

The residence halls will provide space for 576 students, 39 percent of whom would have parking in the 225 parking spaces adjacent to the building. NU would lease the halls for 40 years.

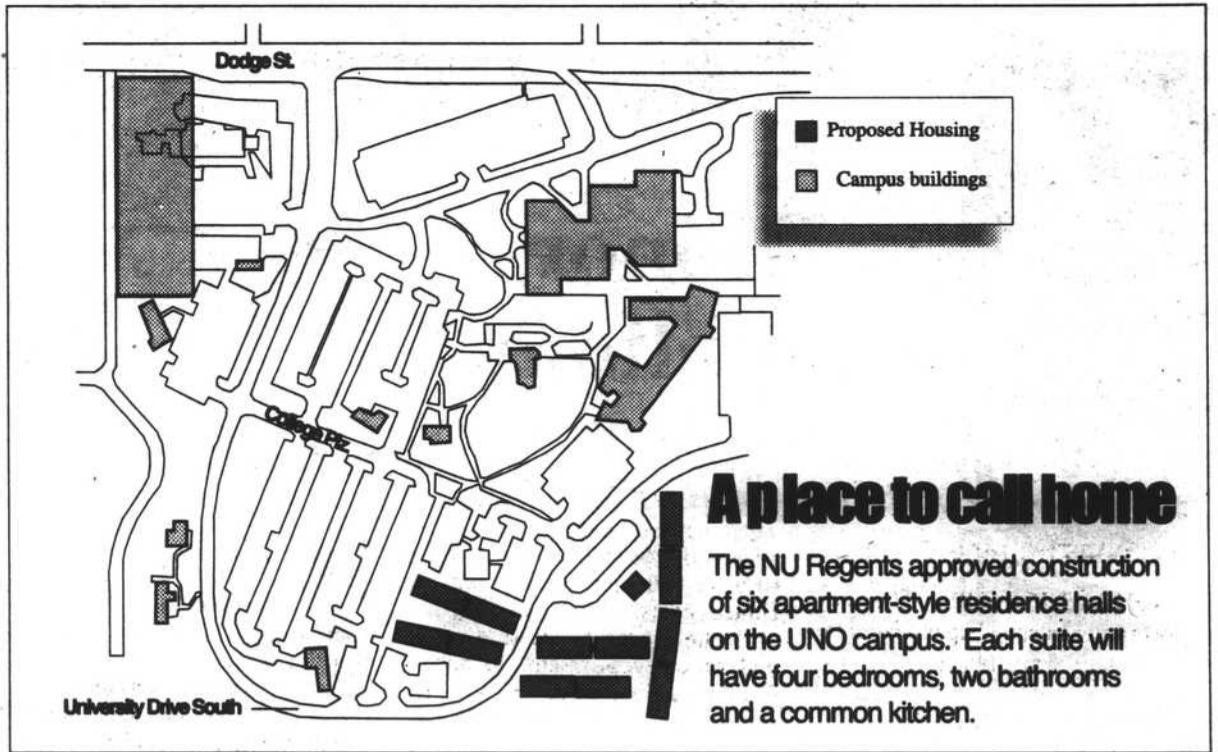
The apartment-style halls would have four bedrooms, a furnished kitchen, a living room and two bathrooms, and they would be rented to students at an "affordable" rate, as required by the regents.

Belck said residence hall living at UNO was targeted to specific groups: athletes, honor and at-risk students as well as international students.

In other NU Board of Regents news:

■ A preliminary budget was released for the 1999-2001 biennium. Regents emphasized that this budget, which calls for a 10 percent increase in state funding for the 1998-99 fiscal year, was still being discussed. The budget includes salary increases for both faculty and nonfaculty. The increase would bring salaries up to the midpoint of what peer institutions pay and allows the NU system to remain competitive in the work force, Smith said.

■ Regents did not to pass a measure that would support the merger of the NU Board of Regents, the state college Board of Trustees and the Nebraska Coordinating



A place to call home
The NU Regents approved construction of six apartment-style residence halls on the UNO campus. Each suite will have four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a common kitchen.

MATT HANEY/DN

SOURCE: NU BOARD OF REGENTS

Commission for Postsecondary Education. The Legislature is considering this merger.

■ Faculty representatives from the four NU campuses presented annual gender equity reports. Regents Smith and Wilson denounced recent discussions regarding statistics NU used in its report to the Legislature, which some women faculty members had questioned. Smith said the U.S. Department of Education figures NU used were not an issue because NU's five-year plan would greatly exceed the midpoint of either the Department of Education survey or the American Association of University Professors survey, which women faculty preferred.

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