

Task force proposed to patrol troopers

■ The group would include community members and would assess the agency's duties, resources and manpower.

Legislature

the state patrol is suffering from inadequate resources.

Thompson said the duties of the state patrol have doubled in the last 20 years, while the number of officers has decreased.

"The Nebraska state patrol is not in a position to adequately discharge their mission," Thompson said.

In 1978, 394 officers were responsible for 27 duties. In 1998, 377 officers were responsible for 56 duties.

One goal of the task force would be to determine ways the state patrol could cut down on the number of its duties by possibly passing them off to other agencies.

The state patrol gets bogged down with responsibilities such as inspecting school buses and working on the state's sexual offender registry, she said.

Thompson said the task force will look at whether other agencies could perform those tasks.

"Maybe there are ways to determine more efficient ways to do business," she said.

The task force also would evaluate the state patrol's resources in sparsely populated areas, communication capabilities and the effects of reductions in grant funding.

Increased manpower is one of the solutions the task force may come up with, Thompson said. An outright request for more officers is not the

best approach, which is why she proposed creating a task force to study the patrol.

Representatives of the state patrol, law enforcement community, the Legislature and two at-large state citizens would make up the task force. The University of Nebraska at Omaha would provide administrative assistance for the task force at a cost of \$37,562.

In December, the task force will present a report to the Legislature.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers asked Thompson why the task force did not conduct an internal evaluation.

Thompson said the members of the task force would be affected by any changes to the state patrol, and

working together would produce more viable suggestions.

Thompson and Steve Grabowski, a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, testified in support of the bill. No one testified against the bill, which the committee may vote on today.

Grabowski said the task force would take a broad look at the state patrol and its involvement with other law enforcement agencies.

"The task force would not look at a problem here or a problem there, but the state patrol as a whole," he said.

The bill is supported by the Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police, the State Patrol, the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association and the Police Officers Association of Nebraska.

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Wednesday on a bill that would set up a task force to assess the resources, efficiency and mission of the Nebraska State Patrol.

Papillion Sen. Nancy Thompson said she introduced LB153 because

Slow sales don't disappoint Husker yearbook organizers

BY KELLI LACEY
Staff writer

Although 1.6 percent of the amount of yearbooks ordered have been sold, student organizers whose aim was to resurrect the Cornhusker Yearbook said they're satisfied.

The yearbook went on sale in December, and since that time 50 of the 3,000 ordered have been sold. Work on the yearbook began in August.

The process is going well, said Sherri Neall, a senior news-editorial major and editor in chief of the yearbook.

"We've been working really hard to try and get things rolling and moving," Neall said.

Neall said it was a challenge to start a new organization, especially because the yearbook's charge is to cover the entire campus.

Brett Stohs, a junior math major, bought a yearbook and is excited to see the result.

"I bought it because I want to see all the new faces at the university," Stohs said. "I think it will be a good sampling of all the student organizations and events. It will cover all facets on campus."

The yearbooks can be charged on a Express Charge on UNL IDs, which means students don't have to dish out the \$30 for a yearbook right away.

Neall said she was pleased with the sales so far.

"We have sold as many as we were hoping for in the first year since there isn't anything to base the book on," Neall said. "When you don't

"Everyone was given an equal opportunity but if people aren't going to respond, you can't do much beyond giving them a follow-up call."

SHERRI NEALL
yearbook editor in chief

have a product to show someone, they are really hesitant to buy it."

Some students were reluctant to buy one because, to them, it might be a waste of money.

Michelle Oliver, a sophomore advertising major, was one of those people.

"UNL is so large that I would probably only know 20 to 30 people in the yearbook," she said.

Student organization interest was lean as well, with about 50-60 participating groups out of the 400 student organizations.

Every organization that is recognized by ASUN and Student Involvement was contacted and given the opportunity to have its group photo taken for the yearbook, Neall said.

"Everyone was given an equal opportunity, but if people aren't going to respond, you can't do much beyond giving them a follow-up call," Neall said.

"With 400 organizations on campus, that could be difficult."

All seniors graduating from the university were sent an e-mail message and a postcard that gave them

the opportunity to have their pictures taken for the yearbook. The service was free to students.

Postcards were also sent to all residence halls and greek houses advertising the book sales. Students can fill the cards out and return them in campus mail if they want to buy the yearbook.

"We're trying to cover as many people as we can, understanding how many students attend UNL. The goal is always trying to get as many people as you can into the book," Neall said. "I realize that's almost impossible."

The yearbooks were on sale for several days last semester at a booth in the Nebraska Union.

The yearbook sells for \$30 and can be purchased by contacting the yearbook office in the Nebraska Union, room 334, or calling (402) 472-6248.

Neall, who will graduate in May, said she was excited about seeing the final product and hoped this yearbook will be the start of a new tradition at the university.

"I hope to leave it with a strong foundation to keep it going."

Event encourages young women to pursue engineering interests

BY JOSH KNAUB
Staff writer

UNL Professor Suzanne Rhode almost gave up engineering after scoring 44 percent on her first quiz.

"I cried," she said. "But when I finally went back to class, I found out that I'd gotten a B."

Rhode was one of the speakers at Wednesday's Women Interested in Engineering Day sponsored by the College of Engineering and Technology and the Society of Women Engineers.

The second annual event was designed to provide information for high school students interested in pursuing engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

About 80 students attended hands-on demonstrations and discussions covering the different engineering disciplines offered at the university.

Fall 1998 statistics showed that 11.3

percent of the students in the College of Engineering and Technology were women.

Speakers gave varied reasons for these numbers.

Rhode said women tend to shy away from physics-related fields. Others said women aren't pushed by teachers and schools in the direction of engineering.

Women Interested in Engineering Day attempted to provide prospective students with information about and contacts in the college.

"We're not promoting salaries. We're not telling men vs. women war stories," said Christine Lam, a senior mechanical engineering major and Society of Women Engineers member. "We're promoting women in engineering."

Attendees were given a packet of information that included the e-mail addresses of participating society members.

Program Director Karen Schurr said the information will provide high school students with a basis to ask questions of university students.

The combination of ice cream and liquid nitrogen made Rhode's mechanical engineering demonstration a popular one.

Participants huddled in close as Rhode mixed a bubbling brew of cream, sugar and liquid nitrogen and then passed out samples of the results.

Organizer Kathy Glenn said 20 more students attended this year's event than last year's.

Jennifer Martin, a Lincoln East high school senior, said she planned to attend UNL and major in biological systems engineering. She said her interest in math and problem solving led her to engineering.

Lam said the event connected high school students to the university.

"I hope this gives students the contacts they need."

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