



Lydia S. Gonzales/DN

CECIL STEWARD, who began working for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1973, retired from his position as dean of the College of Architecture in December.

First architecture college dean proud of his legacy

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

When glancing at the Lincoln skyline, it would seem that those with a love and talent for architecture would get a severe sense of wanderlust.

One would think those with a knack for finding the aesthetically pleasing would choose to live and work amidst the dense horizon of New York City — not the scantily filled skyline of Lincoln.

But not Cecil Steward.

The newly retired College of Architecture dean has experienced the architecture of some of the nation's and world's greatest cities.

He's worked for a firm in New York City.

He's judged competitions that eventually determined the design of an innovative airport in Seoul and the large World Trade Center in Shanghai.

But instead of choosing to live in an area known for its innovative architecture, Steward has spent the last 26 years of his life teaching students about his passion in a city where no building rises higher than the sower on the state Capitol.

But after vacating his office and becoming somewhat of an outsider to the college he has been a fixture of for the last two decades, the award-winning architect and academic has nothing resembling regret.

Instead, the former dean of the architecture college feels good about leaving a college that rose to the top in its field during his tenure.

"I think the facilities are better than any place I have ever visited,"

Steward said. "I think the external support is without peer."

But Nebraska's relatively new program hasn't always been at the same level. When he was hired at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Steward became the architecture college's first dean:

"I felt there was great potential for this program, not only to become solidly established as a member of the university but to rise to regional prominence," Steward said.

Since then, Steward has steered the school's resources in a positive direction, recruiting top-notch faculty and investing in building a professional library that not many schools can rival.

"Other than a few schools on the coasts, no other school can claim as complete of a research collection," Steward said.

Tom Laging, a professor in the college, said much of what has been accomplished in the last 26 years can be attributed to Steward, one of the longest standing deans in the country.

"The legacy he's left is a positive one," Laging said. "It's been the faculty under Cecil's leadership that have positioned our school quite well in our market."

Along with working at the university level to improve the college, Steward's reputation as a renown architect and dean have spread across the world.

Steward is the only educator who has served as president of both the National Architecture Accrediting Board and the American Institute of Architects.

"The legacy (Steward's) left is a positive one."

Tom Laging

NU professor of architecture

He was involved with a decision made by Chinese architects to model their licensing and accreditation system after the U.S. model.

His international perspective is one that has been valuable to the college, Laging said.

"I think one of his interesting attributes is that he plans in an international arena, as well nationally and locally," Laging said.

Even though Steward is retiring from the university, his influence won't disappear. He is teaching one class and in the midst of planning a national conference on land, water and population that will be held at UNL.

Steward will also continue to be president of the Omaha-based Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities — a program he founded.

As he sits in his downtown Lincoln apartment he designed and remodeled to be in a more "urban setting," Steward can feel good about the state he left the college in.

"On the whole I'm fairly pleased that there is a solid foundation for the next dean to come in and take it to the next level," he said.

New architecture dean sought

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

The College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is about to receive an addition — a new dean.

Finalists have been selected by a search committee made up architecture college faculty, as well as representatives from the Academic Senate, the student body and the general public, said Nancy Rapoport, chairwoman of the search committee.

The finalists are H. Gordon Brooks, Wayne Drummond and Frederick Steiner.

The new dean will replace Cecil

Steward, who retired at the end of December after 26 years with the department.

Brooks has been the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Drummond is an architecture professor at the University of Florida, where he served as dean of the College of Architecture from 1990 through last May.

Steiner has been a professor and director at the School of Planning and Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University since 1989.

Associate Vice Chancellor for

Academic Affairs Evelyn Jacobson said that during the next few weeks, the candidates will be visiting the UNL campus to be interviewed and to meet with faculty and administration.

The search committee will then recommend a finalist to Richard Edwards, the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, Jacobson said. Rapoport said all three finalists are excellent candidates.

"We were blessed to have a number of good applicants all the way through," she said. "I think the college of architecture was very lucky to have Cecil, and I think the new dean will get to do some exciting things."

Lied Center asks for less in student fees

By Sara Salkeld

Staff writer

At Thursday's Committee for Fees Allocation meeting, the Daily Nebraskan and the Lied Center for Performing Arts presented their requests for student fees.

The Daily Nebraskan did not request a change in fees, and the Lied Center asked for a decrease.

The Daily Nebraskan requested \$50,863 from student fees, which is about \$1.19 per semester from each student. This is no increase from last year's budget assessment.

Last year, the Daily Nebraskan asked for an increase of 7 cents per student. With that increase, they expected to print 60 additional pages of news. This fall, the newspaper produced 100 additional pages.

"We feel we are a pretty good buy for \$1.19," said Josh Funk, editor in chief.

Right now, 94 percent of Daily Nebraskan expenses are covered by advertising.

Research included in Funk's student fee request letter shows that 87 percent of students and 89 percent of faculty members read the Daily Nebraskan.

The other presenter of the evening

was Charles Bethea, the executive director of the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The Lied Center is requesting \$75,000, a decrease of about \$15,000 from 1999.

The student fees given to the Lied Center are used to provide student-ticket discounts.

According to Bethea, the reason for the decrease in fees was because of an overall decrease in ticket sales, which is not limited to the students.

When asked if the student sales mirrored the general ticket sales, Bethea said ticket sales were "consistent across the ticket-buying public."

Betha said the decrease in sales could be attributed to technology and the coming presidential elections.

Betha said the elections are a distraction and that ticket sales usually drop during election years.

Overall, Bethea said he felt asking for a decrease would make the Lied Center more credible. If it is not able to get a needed increase next year, he said, it is willing to pay for the difference.

In related business, the University Programming Council programming budget was not in on deadline. UPC said it will turn in the budget today and is still scheduled to present its budget on Tuesday.

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