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Moeser to take spot at UNC

MOESER from page 1

Will Norton Jr., dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, said he knew Moeser had accepted the position. But he said the searches for top positions at UNC are not public, and therefore few people knew Moeser was a finalist.

The search for a chancellor at UNC has gone on since shortly after the death of former chancellor Michael Hooker last June. He died after a six-month battle with cancer.

University officials were disappointed to hear about Moeser's decision.

"James has been a wonderful chancellor," Howe said. "The effects of his work will be felt for a very long time."

Griesen said he was sad to hear the news but said the position at North Carolina was a prestigious one.

"It would be an offer one would have great difficulty refusing," he said.

The University of North Carolina was the first state university in the country. U.S. News and World Report has named it the nation's third best public university, and the Fiske Guide to Colleges calls it a "powerhouse in research and education."

The total enrollment is just over 24,000 students.

Howe said officials will have to appoint an interim chancellor and then assemble a group to start a national search.

He said the search will probably take about a year.

James McShane, associate professor of English and former Academic Senate president, said the vacancy of the chancellor's position comes at a difficult time — when

"This is very unusual. I think some folks would begin saying this is not normal and wonder why."

Will Norton Jr.

College of Journalism and Mass Communications dean

many other positions are vacant.

Currently, searches are under way for three deans, the vice chancellor for business and finance and the vice chancellor for agriculture and natural resources.

"It's going to be difficult to sustain momentum in many areas," McShane said. "It's too bad he has to face this opportunity at this point in time when there is instability on this campus."

Norton said the university's state of flux should be cause for worry.

"This is very unusual," he said. "I think some folks would begin saying this is not normal and wonder why."

Norton said the North Carolina offer was a good one, but he said the state could have done more to make the University of Nebraska more appealing to Moeser.

He also said the conservatism of the state in funding the university would be frustrating to anyone and that it could do a better job funding its flagship campus.

"He's going to a great university, but there's no reason we can't be competitive with that," Norton said.

Gail Latta, president of UNL's Academic Senate, said she and other members of an executive committee had planned to talk to the chancellor about a plan of transition if he were to take another job.

Latta said she and the chancellor had not talked, and she was not anticipating that it would happen this soon.

ipating that it would happen this soon.

However, she said she felt the faculty were in a position to move forward despite the transition.

"One of the things (Moeser) did while he was here was to challenge the faculty to be part of setting the future vision of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln," Latta said. "I think that leaves us in good stead for having a sense of who we are and where we are going."

Former student government president Andy Schuerman said he was sad to see Moeser leave.

He said Moeser fought for positive change, even though it sometimes went against the conservative position of the state.

"He has an ideology that is very different than a lot of people," he said. "He fought a lot of battles because of his ideologies."

Chris Linder, a graduate student who has worked on the Chancellor's Commission for the Status of Women, said Moeser has done a good job of improving campus climate.

"He's done a good job of reaching out," Linder said.

"I'm interested to see what we look for (in the next chancellor)," she said.

"I hope we find someone who cares as much about the campus community as he does."

Private funds, research mulled

RESEARCH from page 1

autonomous university, disagreed with many of Washburn's views.

"The public university is not being bought by the private sector," he said.

Bremer pointed out that 60 percent of research at public universities is federally funded.

And he disagreed with Washburn that privately-funded research projects are taking away from other research programs.

"Basic research still outweighs applied research at most universities," Bremer said.

He acknowledged it is important for universities to draw the line between their own interests and the interests of the public they represent.

But he maintained that privately funded research can be beneficial to universities, private corporations and consumers alike.

Chancellor James Moeser said the issues addressed at Thursday's debate are important at UNL.

"Research is very important on this campus, and thus, the topic of research funding is very important on this campus," Moeser said before the debate.

The debate was especially pertinent to UNL because of the amount of corporate-sponsored research at UNL.

Donald Helmuth, associate vice chancellor for research, said that currently about 11 percent of UNL's research funding is from the private sector.

"That's a pretty good number of projects," he said.

Helmuth said he thought that overall, privately funded research was beneficial to all involved.

"It helps our university and the private sector as well," he said.

Biochemistry Professor Donald Weeks is one of many UNL faculty members engaged in privately sponsored research.

Weeks, who is working with the private company United Agri Products to develop herbicide-resistant crops, said he is also largely in favor of the corporate-funded research.

He said that in addition to producing a product that helps farmers, his alliance with United Agri Products helps UNL fulfill its land-grant mission.

"I'm a firm believer in research for pure knowledge, but I also think that at times, research can pay off," he said.

Your mission: Name new team

By Veronica Daehn

Staff writer

The search is on.

With plans for Lincoln's professional baseball team to take to the field a little more than a year from now, Club President Charlie Meyer is busy looking for a name.

And Meyer has invited the Lincoln community to help.

Lincoln residents can submit their suggestions to Meyer on the baseball team's Web site, www.lincolnprobaball.com.

The site has been getting more than 75 hits a day, Meyer said, and most people who visit the site share their ideas for a team name.

"The response has been incredible," Meyer said. "There's been a lot of different suggestions — some good ones, some corny ones."

Ideas for names will be accepted through the end of the month, Meyer said, and the winning name will be announced in June or July.

Meyer said the names suggested so far have been as diverse as the Capitals, the Sowers, the Gigawatts and the Lava Lamps.

"It's fun," Meyer said. "That's what it's all about."

Construction on the team's stadium officially began Wednesday with a ground-breaking ceremony.

The stadium, being built at the intersection of Sixth and Charleston streets, is expected to be finished by May 2001.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln baseball team also will play in the new stadium.

Upon completion of this year's baseball season, Meyer said he would begin looking for a team manager and players.

Players will be signed by early winter, he said.

Meyer is asking for community input in the naming process because he wants Lincoln residents to share in the team's vision, he said.

"We want the community to embrace the name," he said. "It will be a fun name. We need to bring the mascot and the name to life."

Andy Seier, a sophomore business administration major, said he thought the team should be called the Lincoln Larks.

"It just flows," Seier said. "It's the state bird, and it makes sense."

Megan Piernicky, a sophomore secondary education major, had a different idea.

She said the team should be called the Lincoln Blaze.

"All sports teams anymore are not really tangible objects," Piernicky said. "If we're going to upgrade to everyone else, we have to be a concept instead of an object."