

Committee to study reluctance of top administrators to stay at NU

BY VERONICA DAEHN

When former-Chancellor James Moeser left the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in July, finding a replacement wasn't the first thing on Dennis Smith's mind.

Smith, president of the University of Nebraska system, wanted to know why Moeser was lured away by the Tarheels of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

So he ordered a task force to find out why some administrators are reluctant to stay at the University of Nebraska.

Terry Fairfield, president of the University of Nebraska Foundation and task force member, said the committee was surveying other universities to find out what their leadership positions offer.

"The findings will help us better understand the marketplace and help define the characteristics we're looking for in a new chancellor," he said.

Joe Rowson, assistant to the president, said the search for UNL's next chancellor would not begin until the committee work was done.

The committee is expected to report its findings in mid-September.

In the meantime, Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman said he was busy making plans for the coming academic year.

Perlman will deliver the State of the University address Friday at 11 a.m. in the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Perlman worked with Moeser for three months before the former chancellor left, and Perlman said Moeser's departure should be put into context.

Moeser left to take the reins at the University of North

Carolina-Chapel Hill, which is perceived to be a better institution than UNL, Perlman said.

"You can look at that as a problem," Perlman said.

"But we attract chancellors who are in demand nationally - that's a good thing."

Perlman said UNL's lower salary scale compared with other institutions plays a role in retaining faculty.

"That's got to be a major factor in recruiting people and keeping them here," he said.

"But the salary scale can be addressed."

That is one of the things Fairfield's committee is looking into.

The survey would look at compensation packages offered to administrators at other schools and the types of training programs they undergo, Fairfield said.

The report to Smith also will include information from past chancellors and administrators about why they stayed at the university or why they took jobs elsewhere.

Once the committee meets with Smith, another committee will be formed to help select the new chancellor, Rowson said.

Search committee members will include students, faculty and staff members and members of the community. Rowson said it would be a comprehensive national search.

When candidates are selected, Smith will have the final say in hiring Moeser's replacement,

"We have a good track record of hiring very talented and able administrators. The problem is other universities think so, too."

Joe Rowson
assistant to NU president

and the regents must approve his choice.

Rowson said the university has always hired good people.

"The University of Nebraska has been fortunate in its choices of chancellors," he said. "We have a good track record of hiring very talented and able administrators. The problem is other universities think so, too."

Perlman said there were plenty of things UNL had to offer prospective administrators, such as the J.D. Edwards honors program and an increasingly higher admissions standard.

"A lot of things are going to happen over the next five years that will be good and exciting," he said. "I hope people will want to be a part of that."

Perlman said he could not set specific criteria for a chancellor to meet ahead of time, but Moeser's successor did need to have certain qualities: He or she will need to be excited about UNL's opportunities and be willing to invest energy into moving the university forward.

The new chancellor will need to understand the role of a land-grant university and possess a chemistry for working with people, he said.

"It should also be someone with the prospect of staying for a while," Perlman said. "But I think that's probably wishful thinking."

Fun fitness burns fat at Campus Rec

The center offers a myriad of activities, such as outdoor adventures, wall climbing, kick boxing, swimming and fitness classes.

BY GEORGE GREEN

If looking in the mirror has you reeling from the sight of the extra pounds you've packed on at summer picnics, or you're trying desperately to avoid the "Freshman 15," then the Campus Recreation Center has just the plan for you - lots of plans, in fact.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Office of Campus Recreation offers many fitness opportunities to students who want to take off the pounds, or simply want to have some fun.

"We're here to provide a positive place for students to come and burn off a little stress," said Chris Dulak, assistant director for marketing and development at campus rec.

The rec center coordinates 150 intramural sports, including softball, flag football and 9-ball pool tournaments, Dulak said.

It also offers sports clubs that compete against other universities in activities that include soccer, baseball and rowing.

"Sport clubs are not varsity level but are one step up from intramural competition," Dulak said.

If that's not your game, you can try the rec center's fitness and wellness programs.

Fitness classes, which are held throughout the week and require a fee, include indoor cycling, step aerobics and kick boxing, said Sarah Emanuel, assistant director of fitness and wellness services.

If you've tried to pinch an inch, and have failed, a registered dietitian is on hand to teach students about healthy meal plans, and personal trainers are available to develop individual fitness routines for students for a modest fee, Emanuel said.

Students also can train on their own by using the rec center's weight room or the Super Circuit workout facility after taking a brief orientation course.

If you're itching to get out of the confines of the residence hall, or away from your annoying roommate, the Outdoor Adventures section of Campus Recreation may be an answer to your prayers.

Students can participate in canoeing, backpacking and rock climbing trips at fair prices, Dulak said.

Last year, 80 percent of UNL students used at least one of Campus Recreation's programs or facilities. Campus rec also employs 600 students in a variety of positions and is always looking for workers, Dulak said.

Essentially, the rec center exists to help people stay healthy, Emanuel said.

Students interested in sport clubs and intramural activities can call the Campus Recreation Center at (402) 472-3467 on City Campus or (402) 472-2479 on East Campus. You can also check its Web site at <http://www.unl.edu/rec>.

Resentencing panel appointed

The panel's chief, Bernard McGinn, removed himself to eliminate possible grounds for appeals in the Reeves case.

BY JOSH FUNK

A three-judge panel has been appointed to resentence Randy Reeves for the 1980 murders of two Lincoln women.

During the summer, the head of the panel, Bernard McGinn, removed himself from the case after a prosecution motion pointed out that the judge was working in the Lancaster County Attorney's office when Reeves was prosecuted.

Reeves' attorney, Paula Hutchinson, questioned

whether a judge has the power to remove himself from a case after being appointed by the state Supreme Court.

A hearing for pre-sentencing motions is scheduled for the morning of Sept. 21, and Reeves could be resentenced this fall.

In January 1999, Reeves, 44, came within two days of the state's electric chair before the state high court stayed the execution to hear a last appeal.

A year later the court vacated its own death sentence because of procedural problems in the way Reeves was resentenced in 1991.

Reeves was convicted of two counts of felony murder for the 1980 stabbings of Janet Mesner and Vicki Lamm at the Quaker meeting house in

Lincoln because there was evidence of sexual assault.

The Nebraska Supreme Court appointed Lancaster County District Judge Karen Flowers to replace McGinn on the panel.

The other two judges are Lincoln County District Judge Donald Rowlands and Douglas County District Judge Richard Spethman.

County Attorney Gary Lacey, who prosecuted the case in 1980, will ask the panel for either a new death sentence or life in prison.

Lacey would not say this week which option he will pursue.

Lacey said that he filed the motion to remove McGinn from the case to eliminate possible grounds for appeals.

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