

Daily Nebraskan

Storm chaser awes students with tales of weather watching and photography
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A unified offensive line means tough Saturdays for the defensive fronts of NU foes
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Star City Dinner Theatre lets audience decide how the story ends
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Italian, Chinese classes may be first to go

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Administrators and teachers in the modern languages department don't want to do it.

But they might have to.

Because of retirements of Chinese and Italian teachers and a lack of money to find replacements, those languages will likely be dropped from the curriculum.

The two language classes are possibly the first casualties to surface as a result of a prioritization process being completed in every UNL department.

Each University of Nebraska-Lincoln department has been asked to evaluate its programs and identify the strongest and weakest ones in a process that has

been dubbed "academic-prioritization."

Radha Balasubramanian, vice chairwoman of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, said she hoped the languages would not be dropped permanently.

Italian and Chinese are important subjects, she said.

"We are struggling with this problem," Balasubramanian said. "But we still have time to discuss the possibilities."

Since the retirements two years ago, Italian classes have been taught by teaching assistants who should be teaching classes in other languages, she said.

Chinese is funded by a two-year ad hoc grant that will end with this academic year. The department has been able to

hire lecturers with that grant money.

"We're not sure about finding funds and getting qualified people to teach (after this year)," Balasubramanian said. "But we very much do not want to drop these languages."

Lana Pashkevich, a teaching assistant who teaches beginning Italian classes, said she was concerned there wouldn't be anyone left to teach Italian after she graduated in May.

Pashkevich is a doctoral student in German, but was recruited to teach Italian.

After two semesters teaching Italian, Pashkevich said she realized what a beautiful language it was.

The classes are always full and stu-

"We're not sure about finding funds and getting qualified people to teach (after this year). But we very much do not want to drop these languages."

Radha Balasubramanian

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures vice chairwoman

dents often request overrides.

It is an excellent class, she said, and one that should continue at the university.

"I'm pretty upset about this," Pashkevich said. "It all has to do with money."

Coral Su, a graduate student teaching Chinese 101 and 201, said she was learn-

ing how to write a grant, which, if won, would garner money to help continue the Chinese program when the current grant runs out in May.

There are a lot of Chinese students at UNL and around the world, Su said, and

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TOP: Senior agribusiness major Scott Peterson ravelis up his lasso as he lets his horse Brownie take a rest before roping calves during Rodeo Club practice on East Campus on Tuesday evening. The Rodeo Club has about 50 members and takes a good number of them on the road when it travels to weekend rodeos in other cities and states for competition.

BOTTOM: Peterson throws his hands up to show he completed tying three of a calf's legs. Calf roping involves throwing accuracy, disciplining the horse to keep the rope tight and having the speed and experience to bring the calf to the ground, roping its legs as quickly as possible.



RODEO DRIVE

Roping and riding horses are ways of life for many students who were raised on farms.

But love of the rodeo doesn't have to end for students who come to college. Students can participate in UNL's Rodeo Club and the rodeo team.

This year the club consists of 50 members who talk about their interests in rodeo. The rodeo team has 15 members who compete across the Midwest.

The team is trying to qualify for the Collegiate National Finals.

Jared Crauss, a senior secondary education and natural sciences major, said being a member of UNL's rodeo team is something he didn't plan on when he was a child riding horses on the farm.

"I've always wanted to rodeo for the university," Crauss said. "In that sense, it's a dream come true."

Rodeo Club President Eric Behlky said anyone with an interest in rodeo is welcome to attend the meetings on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on the rodeo grounds or at the Nebraska East Union.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NATE WAGNER

Student Court online-voting verdict split

Three justices thought an amendment was needed to allow Web ballots; three disagreed.

BY JILL ZEMAN

Members of the ASUN Student Court were split on whether online voting can be used in ASUN and homecoming elections without a change to ASUN's constitution.

The court did not strike down an online voting system. Rather, it disagreed on how computer ballots should come about.

Because of the split verdict, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is not prohibited from using an online voting system.

But if ASUN institutes online voting without a constitutional amendment, it runs the risk of having the constitutionality of an election challenged, said ASUN President Joel

ASUN

Schafer.

"We don't want to see someone challenge an election and have it overturned," he said.

Schafer said ASUN will move forward with an online voting system, but he didn't know how and when that would happen.

The court voted 3-3 on the issue, with justices Don Arp, Scott Lindberg and Andrea Slater supporting online voting without a constitutional change.

According to their judgment, changing the voting procedures would not give the Electoral Commission more power or change its role.

Chief Justice Trent Steele, along with Justices Shanna Cole and David Ridenour, voted that an amendment should bring about a change in voting procedures.

In their judgment, Steele, Cole and Ridenour stated the implementation of an online-voting system without a constitutional change would broaden the powers of the Electoral Commission, whose members are appointed rather than elected.

ASUN can hold a special election for the amendment or can include it on the ballot in the coming homecoming election or the spring ASUN election.

Schafer said the court's decision slows, but does not eliminate, the implementation of an online voting system.

"Our actions depend on what we hear from the senate," Schafer said.

Electoral Commission Director John Conley said he was pleased the court did not rule, as a majority, against an online-voting system.

But Conley said he was disappointed the court didn't come up with a clear-cut answer.

"We don't want to see someone challenge an election and have it overturned."

Joel Schafer
ASUN president

"They're not saying we can do it, they're not saying we can't," he said.

Conley said he would talk with members of Information Services to have the voting system up and running, possibly in time for the Homecoming election.

But ASUN must first decide which route it will take to implement a secure, accurate online voting system before any decisions are made, Schafer said.

"We're going to move forward with online voting," he said. "Right now the question is by what means."

Perlman: 416 would hurt UNL

BY JILL ZEMAN

UNL Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman publicly voiced his disapproval of a same-sex marriage ban, saying it would hinder the university's recruitment and retention of faculty and students.

Perlman announced his views about Initiative 416 to UNL's Academic Senate on Tuesday. The amendment would ban same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

Perlman said he had some evidence that the initiative on November's ballot has influenced some potential employees' views of the university.

If the initiative is enacted, it will clearly hurt the University of Nebraska and businesses in the state, he said.

The single barrier to economic progress in the state is the small workforce, Perlman said.

"(Initiative) 416 cannot be helpful in that regard," he said.

The effects of the initiative, if it is passed, would hurt the state, regardless of the intentions of the bill's supporters, he said.

"It will be viewed as an act of bigotry and intolerance by the world," he said. "That cannot be good for Nebraska."

Perlman cited the decision of the three biggest American auto makers - Ford, General Motors and

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Harvey Perlman
UNL interim
chancellor

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Academic Senate

Faculty given timetable for prioritization

BY JILL ZEMAN

UNL Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman spoke to the Academic Senate Tuesday about moving forward with the 20/20 Vision report and the university's prioritization process.

The senate already discussed the issues in earlier meetings and were given more of an update in Tuesday's meeting.

Perlman presented a timetable for the faculty members to chart the prioritization process.

The Academic Planning Committee will be in charge of reviewing and recommending UNL's highest priorities by May 1, before they are submitted to NU President Dennis Smith and the Board of Regents on May 15.

Departments will have to review and refine the preliminary priorities that are submitted by Dec. 15, according to the preliminary time table. Academic priorities will be established by Feb. 1,

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