

Chinese, Italian classes may be first to go

"The pressures are to do less and to do more things efficiently."

Roger Kirby
Department of Physics and Astronomy chairman

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these classes should be continued for their benefit.

Other departments are struggling with prioritizing their programs right now, too.

Roger Kirby, chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said his department was assessing its programs.

Department members are looking for programs that will be

strong 10 years from now, Kirby said.

"The pressures are to do less and to do more things efficiently," he said.

Research programs are a focus of the department, Kirby said.

Money is a concern in this department, too.

"There aren't as many dollars as we need," Kirby said. "But we have to accept it. It's a fact of life."
Psychology Department

Chairman Daniel Leger and History Department Chairman Kenneth Winkle said their departments were also evaluating and ranking their programs.

Both said it was too early to predict what classes, if any, might be dropped. Leger said he hoped the department wouldn't have to offer to cut anything.

"It's a long, drawn-out, aggravating process," he said. "We're all concerned."

Perlman says 416 bad for Nebraska

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Chevrolet - to offer domestic partner benefits to their employees.

"They've recognized the state of the world as it is, not how they want it to be," he said.

Sheila Scheideler, Academic Senate president, said the senate would not take a stance on the issue.

"We're not a political organization," she said. "Our mission is academic."

Last spring, the senate passed a resolution supporting domestic partner benefits for employees.

"That's about as political as we get," she said.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer said he supported Perlman's decision to oppose the initiative.

"I think (the passage of Initiative) 416 will send a clear message that Nebraska is not an inviting, tolerating place for GLBT people," he said.

If the initiative is passed, it will eliminate any hope for domestic partner benefits for students, faculty and staff, he said.

Even though Schafer opposes the initiative, he said he would not introduce any legislation against 416 in student government.

"It's a very political issue," he said. "I think the student body is pretty split on it so I will not pres-

Timetable unveiled for prioritization

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and a written report will be finalized March 1.

The highest-ranked 20 to 30 percent of classes are referred to as UNL's academic priorities.

According to a document given to the senate members, the highest academic priorities are not always the best programs, but those that the university chooses to advance and strengthen through additional funding.

"If we're up to the task, we can take a serious look at what our priorities are," he said.

Academic Senate President Sheila Scheideler said she hoped faculty members discuss what programs should be on the prioritization list.

Otherwise, faculty members could end up disappointed when they see the results of the prioritization.

"We need to get out there," she said. "We've pushed hard for (Perlman) to come up with a time frame."

Perlman also reaffirmed his support of the 20/20 Vision Statement.

The 20/20 vision report contains research and graduate education goals for the university to attain over the next 20 years.

"Overall, it seems to us that this report is the right vision for a research, land-grant institution," Perlman said.

But he emphasized the research mentioned in the report refers not only to scientific pursuits, but to the humanities as well.

"It doesn't mean every resource should be used for research," he said.

Perlman said he would send the 20/20 vision report to the deans of the colleges, who will forward it to faculty members for implementation.

This is an invitation for faculty members to tell the administration ways to improve academic departments, Perlman said.

"Decisions will be made consistent with this report," he said.

Scheideler said she was pleased Perlman recognized how the vision statement can be applied to different academic disciplines.

The vision for the future should be broadly defined and not be restricted to just research and graduate education, she said.

In other news, Perlman said the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences should be announced later this week.

Final candidates for the dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts will also be announced, he said.

"They've recognized the state of the world as it is, not how they want it to be."

Harvey Perlman
UNL interim chancellor

ent a bill about it.

Although Schafer has no plans to introduce a bill, other senators can do so if they wish, he said.

"Any legislation we take will be in a manner where students can express their opinions," he said.

Angela Clements, Huskers Against 416 student coordinator, said she was pleased with Perlman's announcement.

"It shows a lot of courage on the part of the chancellor," she said. "It shows he's not influenced by larger political aspects."

The university has a nondiscriminatory policy for its employees, which includes sexual orientation, so it was logical for Perlman to take this stance, Clements said.

Clements said she thought there were several public figures who oppose the initiative, but are afraid to voice their opinions.

"I think (Perlman) will be a catalyst for other eminent Nebraska figures," she said.



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