

Perlman addresses prioritization

BY LINDSEY BAKER

Questions concerning the recently released list of University priorities were met with answers from Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman at Tuesday's Academic Senate meeting.

Perlman addressed issues including disconting over 108 University of Nebraska-Lincoln programs designated by faculty as areas that need special attention and funding.

"Some may need to be more refined or broadened," Perlman said. "It's not an event, it's a process."

The list, along with prioritized program lists from every school in the University of Nebraska system, will be revised and sent to NU President Dennis Smith. The lists will then be submitted to the Nebraska Board of

Regents for approval at its May meeting.

Perlman said that not every program on the list will receive money immediately. "It's not likely that in June every one of these programs will receive a check," he said.

He said he hoped faculty would not feel threatened by their program's possible absence from the list, and though the Senate posed few questions at the meeting, he welcomed staff opinions.

Perlman encouraged faculty members to share ideas for university improvement instead of doing nothing.

"This sets the stage for all of us to work as hard as we can to make the university better," he said.

Senate President-elect Miles Bryant said he thought the list was appropriate.

"I think we're about where we probably expected to be," he said. "I wasn't surprised

that there wasn't a lot of talk about (the list) at the meeting."

Bryant said he expected more debate at forums scheduled on Thursday and Friday, and even more discussion when a budget for the list is released.

"We'll see what happens Thursday and Friday," he said. "Often, none of us are really activated until there's a price to pay."

Thursday's forum will be held in the Nebraska Union at 11:30 a.m., and Friday's forum is scheduled at 8:45 a.m. in the Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on East Campus.

In other Academic Senate news, Perlman stated his hope that state tobacco settlement money would go to NU biomedical research.

"It's an important bill for people engaged in biomedical research on this campus," he said.

Students to see minus addition

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and the Student Affairs office to be gradually implemented.

"It's not going to happen right away," he said.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Greisen said if faculty members want to move to a new grading system, they can.

"I can't say that that's good or bad, that's just what they want," he said. "I don't think it will make a tremendous impact on our campus one way or the other, frankly."

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer said he didn't think students would easily accept the new system.

"I don't think students will be happy with it," he said.

ASUN defeated a bill to recommend the grading change when it was proposed in December.

Schafer said students' biggest concern at the time was their ability to maintain scholarships, an issue noted in the committee report.

"I'm happy that we got at least the main point of concern (in the report)," Schafer said.

Sophomore chemistry major Annika Carlson said she might have a tough time keeping her scholarships under the new system.

Greisen said he didn't think the new system would cause students to lose scholarships or change the academic climate.

Said freshman nursing major Laura Tobin: "It'll push students to work harder, but an A is an A."

Freshman elementary education major Mary Anderson and freshman pre-nursing major Heather Hamilton both said they agreed that the new system will give students more drive to do well academically to

"It'll push students to work harder, but an A is an A."

Laura Tobin
freshman nursing major

avoid the minuses.

"It'll make people work harder, definitely," Hamilton said. "Who wants to have a minus?"

Anderson said she thought students would be concerned about grade point averages, which would be altered on the new scale.

Right now, if students have GPAs below 2.0, they're put on academic probation. Certain colleges also require students to earn Cs in classes within their major.

According to the proposed scale, a C- would be deemed an unacceptable level of performance with a GPA of 1.67.

Junior finance major David Lockwood said he thought the plus-minus system was beneficial.

"I think it's a good move," he said. "It makes us more comparable to other universities. I think UNK and UNO should go to the same system."

Ford said he didn't think students should be upset.

"I hope the standard for scholarships will go up," he said. "(The system) will make exactly the same number of GPAs go down as it will make go up."

Academic Senate President Sheila Scheideler said she hoped students accept the new system.

"I hope students receive it in a way such that they see the upside more than the downside," she said. "It's a good step."

Murderer Bao gets life in jail

BY JILL CONNER

A district judge gave Linh Bao, a convicted murderer, a life in prison sentence Tuesday for the shooting of a Lincoln man.

Bao also received a two to six year prison sentence for using a weapon to commit a felony.

Bao, 30, was convicted in October of first-degree murder for shooting Vu Hoang La, 37, last February.

La was found dead in the driver's seat of his car near Bao's trailer in the Cornhusker Highway trailer park.

During the trial, Lancaster Deputy County Attorney Andy Jacobsen said it was not an accidental shooting.

He said Bao had a history of threatening his life and the life of his wife.

"The appropriate sentence is life, and beyond life, to make sure Mr. Bao doesn't get out and this doesn't happen again," he said.

Public Defender Tim Sopinski asked the judge to think about leniency when considering Bao's second count of using a weapon to commit a felony.

Sopinski said Bao's only fear was for his family.

The only way Bao could get out of prison is if the parole board commutes his sentence, Jacobsen said.

"I think the trial went as best as I would have imagined," Jacobsen said. "I would have done nothing differently."

Jacobson said Bao's family

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Andy Jacobsen
Lancaster Deputy County Attorney

said it, too, were satisfied with the outcome of the sentencing.

Sopinski would not comment about the sentencing on Tuesday.

In February, Bao went to a Vietnamese New Year's party where he got into a fight with La and two other men.

Bao was asked to leave, but spotted La's car following him. Bao got out of his vehicle and started a second fight with La and two other men.

Bao then went into his trailer and brought out his .380-caliber handgun, although it was unloaded.

Bao, La and two other men struggled over the gun. Bao went back inside the trailer to load the gun.

La began walking toward his car, and witnesses said Bao fired five shots. Police also found five shell casings by the car.

After a juror who broke her arm was sequestered in her hospital room, the jury reconvened and deliberated for three and a half hours before finding Bao guilty of the two counts.

NUForce faces penalizations

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The campaign was suspended because of the suspicion that Josh Hesse, who represents the No Mo Ho group, is contradicting his purpose statement in his campaigning activities, Conley said.

A purpose statement is necessary for students to officially form a student election group, he said.

For example, in Hesse's purpose statement it says that

he would renew the integrity of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, Conley said.

But, a flyer posted by No Mo Ho, may be contradicting the purpose statement, Conley said.

"He seems to be bashing ASUN, and ASUN candidates, and the election process," he said.

Conley said today he will be taking down any No Mo Ho flyers that he sees.

Bill enhances cell 911

BY GWEN TIETGEN

If cellular phone users dial 911, Nebraska 911 operators don't receive the phone number or location of the caller.

A bill to enhance 911 services to detect this information from cellular phones was heard Tuesday.

"This information is very valuable in case the caller is a child or incapacitated, or if connection is lost or the caller isn't able to speak clearly," said Sen. Pat Engel, who labeled the bill his priority bill for the session.

Currently, if someone dials 911 from a landline phone, the centers receive a caller's telephone number and address.

On landline phones, fees for 911 services cost Nebraska callers 50 cents to \$1 a month.

LB585 would create a cellular phone surcharge of 50 cents to help pay for upgraded 911 services in Nebraska.

Under an emergency clause, the surcharge would be put in place July 1, 2001.

Engel introduced a similar bill last year, but it was killed in committee because too many issues needed to be worked out, he said.

"This bill is a part of an overall, nationwide move toward implementing enhanced wireless 911," Engel said.

This move will also be a part of the Federal Communications Commission this year.

On October 1, the FCC will require cellular phone carriers to be able to transmit the information about the location of the cellular phone calling into the center, Engel said.

Mark Conrey, the director of 911 services in Douglas County, said Nebraska 911 centers need this bill.

In the last six months, the Douglas County 911 services have received more than 65,000 cellular 911 calls, Conrey said.

"We get a lot of cellular calls and have no idea where the caller is located," Conrey said.

"Unfortunately, sometimes the caller doesn't even know where they are."

To help oversee and evaluate the new 911 services, an advisory board would also be created with the bill.

The advisory board, along with the division of communications with the Department of Administrative Services, would accept grant applications from 911 centers and wireless carriers to help provide for the technology of enhanced 911 services.

But Anne Boyle from the Public Services Commission offered an amendment to the bill that would make the Public Service Commission the administrative agency to oversee the implementation of the new 911 services instead of the Department of Administrative Services.

Currently, 38 other states have implemented similar wireless 911 surcharges including Iowa, South Dakota and Colorado.

Victim: Puffy Combs had gun

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - One of three people shot during a night club melee that involved Sean "Puffy" Combs says she saw the rap impresario fire a gun just before she was wounded.

But Natania Reuben, 30, testified Monday that she did not know who shot her. She was the second witness to say she saw Combs with a gun in Club New York on Dec. 27, 1999 but the first to testify he fired a gun.

Prosecutors have said the victims were shot by Combs' protegee, rapper Jamal "Shyne"

Barrow, after an argument in which a club patron threw money at Combs.

Barrow was charged with three counts of attempted murder in the shooting. He is on trial with Combs, 31, and Combs' bodyguard, Anthony "Wolf" Jones, 34.

Combs and Jones are charged with gun possession and bribery.

Combs, who has pleaded innocent, was arrested after police said a gun was thrown from the vehicle he and some of his entourage used to flee the club. Another gun was allegedly found in the vehicle.

Gore teaches journalism

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Former Vice President Al Gore taught his first class at one of the nation's premier journalism schools Tuesday - but only off the record.

With security officers keeping the news media at bay, Gore delivered his first lecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in a class titled "Covering National Affairs in the Information Age."

"As I understand it, the normal policy is that the classes are usually off the record," Gore said later. "I would have had the option to do it on the record, but I think the students will get more out of it if it's as much as possible a normal classroom experience."

University spokeswoman Suzanne Trimel called the class a learning experience for students, "not a news event."

The irony was not lost on journalism students entering the building, where some three dozen members of the working media were locked out.

Several students said they were warned not to ask any political questions or queries on behalf of professional journalists. An advance e-mail also warned them the class was considered "off the record."

"It definitely goes against what we're taught, but it's Al Gore, and we have to accommodate him," student Benjamin Stein said.

"This is not just any professor," added Michael Arnone, 29, a student in the class. Gore has signed on to teach courses at Columbia, Middle Tennessee State University and Fisk University.

Craig Wolf, one of the professors of the Columbia class, said it was an opportunity for "an intimate discussion" with Gore.

Still, Wolf said his initial response to the class being off the record was "What? Are you kidding me? But this is a classroom."

Before the lecture, a guard at the entrance to the building checked student identification cards. Inside, another guard was at the entrance to the floor of the lecture hall checking IDs. Other security workers were stationed at staircases.

Monica Tedeschi, a 28-year-old student, broke the embargo a bit, telling a reporter that Gore was dynamic.

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