

Regents seek outside legal counsel

BY TONYA LOMELO
STAFF WRITER

Authorization to hire outside counsel and potentially spend thousands of dollars to defend the Board of Regents, UNLV, President Robert Maxson and University and Community College System assistant general counsel Brad Booke in a lawsuit filed by former UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian and his wife, Lois, was granted Friday at the monthly regents' meeting.

The regents also voted in favor of Interim Chancellor John Richardson's request that the named parties seek special counsel outside the UCCSN general counsel because two of the four attorneys employed are involved with the lawsuit.

Regent Shelley Berkley cast the only vote opposing special counsel, saying the board should first use its in-house counsel to file a preliminary motion for dismissal.

"This is UNLV's mess," Berkley, legal counsel for the Sands Hotel, said. The Regents, she explained, should separate themselves from the university and try to get themselves dismissed.

Berkley said the 89-page lawsuit filed by the Tarkanians in September does not show "a cause of action against the Board."

Richardson explained that, of the four lawyers employed by UCCSN, counsel Donald Klasic will serve as a witness, and Booke is named as a defendant.

The remaining two, besides being weighted down with other UCCSN business, are not trial attorneys which is what is required in this case.

"When I get sued, I want to

win, and I want the best attorneys available," Richardson told the Regents, endorsing the outside counsel.

According to the regent's agreement, the costs for retaining counsel for those named in the lawsuit will be shared by UNLV and the Board of Regents. UNLV will pay two-thirds of the cost and the Regents will pay one-third.

The money from the Regent's portion will come out of their Special Projects fund, which is financed from interest made on donated money to the different institutions in Nevada. The fund is used at the discretion of the board to bankroll special projects that cannot be funded through operating budgets.

Regent Dan Klaich, who was against using money from this account for the suit, said he would like "to expose it (the lawsuit) for the self-serving lawsuit that it is." The lawsuit, Klaich explained, was just another attempt to extract more money from the system for personal gain.

"This is not the act of a kind person who has the interest of the institution at heart," Klaich said. "This is the act of someone who intended to extract from this institution and from the state taxpayers personal funds for his pockets."

The law firm of Jones, Jones, Close and Brown will be retained to represent the collaborated group, Richardson said.

Former Athletic Director Dennis Finfrock, also named in the suit, has chosen to seek separate counsel from Lionel, Sawyer & Collins.

Maxson said he was pleased with the board's decision to hire outside counsel to represent all parties because "we're all a part of the same system."

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dent health liaison, commented on rising health costs on campus.

"Every year, the cost of student health insurance has gone up, and this year its going to go up about 40 percent," he said. "There is a new law that international students have to have \$50,000, not \$25,000 in total coverage."

Kandcer continued, "I have a statistic here that insurance companies, including Blue Cross-Blue Shield are losing money. Remember that 42 percent of all money that's being collected by this plan is being spent on outpatient medical care.

"Maybe if they make-up a gateway system where students would have to go to the health-center first, and get a referral to a specialist," he said. Kandcer noted that the object of the system would be to reduce costs, but it would be uncertain if it would have that at least the extent of the costs cut is presently uncertain.

Kandcer discussed further cost-cutting measures. "Since 18 percent of that 42 percent is being spent on obstetricians and gynecologists outside of the health center, and we provide those services here, we're going to try to get an obstetrician-gynecologist to work here at least twice a week, to keep those costs from going up as much."

Regents approve degree program

BY TONYA LOMELO
STAFF WRITER

Come spring semester 1994, UNLV will offer a master's degree in science.

Thursday, the Board of Regents approved the graduate degree program which has an emphasis for science teachers and others who wish to pursue an advanced degree in a natural or mathematical science.

An additional \$3,000 per year

Regents approve new financial aid policy

BY TONYA LOMELO
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Regents, Friday, approved guidelines which would earmark a percentage of money to fund financial aid for need-based and access-oriented students.

The guidelines say that, of the money authorized through a policy passed last October, 80 percent will be disbursed on a need basis and the other 20 percent will go to students considered under-represented on campus.

The policy states, "50 percent of all tuition and fee increases dedicated to the state budget will be earmarked for student financial assistance."

Opinions were varied amongst the regents on the percentage split between the two aid recipients, but it seemed agreed upon that a review should be conducted in a year.

President Robert Maxson, who originally favored a 60-40 split, said he approved of the policy adoption on the contingency that in a year the board would "ask for a profile of the 20 percent, look at

the 80 percent and use our collective wisdom to adjust it (the percentage split) if it is necessary."

Sharlene Sayegh, president of UNLV's graduate association, called the policy "a tax on middle-class students" of which she said 75 percent would be eliminated. She too, favored a 60-40 split, but said she was not disappointed by the board's decision because "it is not set in stone."

The need-based student will be determined according to federal government methodology which Regent Dan Klaich said were "so out of whack." Klaich, casting the sole vote in opposition, called the policy "a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down."

Russell West, graduate student president at the University of Nevada, Reno, said he saw the measure as only a "reduce in loans and an increase in grants." He added an anecdote of a mother of three who, because her husband works, does not qualify for the federal guidelines and is "slipping between the cracks" of this policy.

Funding for this program is estimated at \$1.76 million for 1993-94 and \$3.01 million in 1994-95.

from the College of Science and Mathematics' budget will be necessary to implement this program. No additional faculty is needed, however, as graduate faculty from the different science departments can be utilized.

According to the proposal given to the Board of Regents, the need for this program stems from the growth beyond traditional science classes being taught at the high school level, and education graduates may be teaching with only 16 credits in any one science area.

The proposal adds that there is a decline in the number of teachers pursuing the science field, and that

it is imperative that those who do, be knowledgeable enough to make the subject interesting to students.

It states, "One of the best ways to attract students to science is to expose them to stimulating and knowledgeable teachers in their early years. Teachers who have earned the MAS degree will be better prepared to give students the requisite scientific background."

The degree program would be a 33-credit, two-science, non-thesis program, meeting the standards for accreditation through the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

Ten students are expected to enroll in the first year.

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1st Lt. Peterson and Gunny Sgt. Green will be at the student union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 27th and 28th of October '93 if interested in being a Marine Corps Officer, Please come by or call 1(800) 448-8762

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