$25 million grant awarded to OSU vocational center

By Stuart Kunkler
1-20-78

Ohio State's Center for Vocational Education (CVE) has been renamed the National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE), it was announced Thursday.

The designation was awarded by the U.S. Office of Education. It was accompanied by a grant that will total about $25 million over the next five years. The grant will supply operating funds of $4.5 million a year, renewable annually through 1982.

It is the largest single contract ever awarded to the university and the largest single grant ever awarded by the Office of Education, according to President Harold L. Enarson.

CVE has been in operation since 1965. Robert E. Taylor, CVE's executive director, said that since its inception the center has helped groups in all 50 states in their attempts to solve the educational problems in preparing people for jobs.

Its new national role will focus on making vocational education more responsive to individual and societal needs, Taylor said. However, the center will not be doing much that is new.

"Most of the things that are called for (in the new contract) are things we've been doing all along," he said.

Enarson echoed this, saying the center has been operating "in all but name" as the NCRVE since 1965.

"The university community is exceedingly proud to have the opportunity to conduct research on such pressing concerns as youth unemployment, equal employment opportunity and education for the disadvantaged," he said.

The national center will operate with the assistance of a National Advisory Council. The council's 13 members are to be appointed by Joseph Califano, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

NCRVE will use the money from the Office of Education grant to improve vocational education systems for students of all ages across the country. Taylor said career planning for youth is a primary concern of the center.

"We're concerned with trying to help schools and other groups assure that all young people have a full awareness of all the career options available to them," Taylor said. In addition, the center will attempt to keep up with changing job availability and to keep young people aware of job demands, he said.

In addition to conducting research in areas like unemployment, job opportunities and education, the center will provide training for vocational educators. This will include an advanced study center for post-doctorate educators.

The center will have its own national faculty of about 60 vocational education leaders and will employ about 30 graduate students, Taylor said.

NCRVE will distribute the results of all its research and projects nationally.

Although the center's contract calls for a five-year program, Taylor said he thinks the relationship will extend beyond that limit because "the language of the contract clearly implies it is subject to renewal."
OSU center get $27 million

The National Center for Research in Vocational Education at Ohio State University has been given a five-year, $27-million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue studying earning powers and job choices, officials said Tuesday.

It is the second grant of about the same amount the center has received to develop materials and to help train teachers and administrators working in vocational fields.

The center also has been designated by the education department as a national center.

With the new grant, the center during the next five years will study ways to retrain those who have been displaced from their work.

Robert E. Taylor, the center’s executive director, said the center also will try to detail how vocational education may contribute to economic recovery.

And it will study the structuring of production teams to take the place of assembly line manufacturing, Taylor said.

“We want to involve business more in the planning and training of vocational education programs,” Taylor told a news conference.
Research center wins $27 million

By Cindy Dill  1-20-83
Lantern staff writer

OSU's National Center for Research (NCR) in Vocational Education won $27 million Sunday in a contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

The contest determines what facility will be the national center for vocational research. The contest has been held twice in the last six years and OSU has won the title both times.

The award is the largest amount of money given to OSU for research in a single grant, said Chester K. Hansen, the director for NCR.

The University of Tennessee and OSU were the only two schools competing this year in the national contest.

Hansen said the Department of Education looked for the institutions whose capacities, track records and cost effectiveness "could give them the most for their money."

The award must be renewed annually for the next five years, he said.

The Department of Education will allocate $5.4 million to OSU this year. NCR gets $4.4 million Sunday and expects to get the rest of the money later this year, Hansen said.

The allocations are subject to change according to annual federal appropriations for research and the amount and type of work the center does, Hansen said.

NCR researches and provides solutions for educational problems related to vocational/occupational training.

One of its functions includes creating educational packages called "modules" for professors. NCR has produced 140 modules on topics ranging from sales to increasing learning skills.

"There are 400 colleges that utilize the educational materials we have developed," Hansen said.

The facility also functions as a clearing house for educational materials in vocational, adult and career areas, he said.

"If Professor 'X' is putting together a course and needs all the available material on the topic, he can call us and we'll tell him the names of the institutions and agencies where he can get it," Hansen said.
OSU contract angers Tennessee dean

By Cindy Dill
Lantern staff writer 2-8-83

A University of Tennessee dean is questioning a decision by the U.S. Department of Education to award Ohio State a $27 million contract for vocational education.

Marla P. Peterson, dean for research at the University of Tennessee (UT), said the review panels recommended OSU decided unfairly and may have been influenced by politics.

The five-year contract was awarded in January to the OSU National Center for Research in Vocational Education to carry out its programs and research.

UT was the only other university to bid for the contract.

"We have a lot of questions about the reviewing process," Peterson said.

Quoting a 36-page memorandum sent to the schools from Robert M. Worthington, assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, Peterson described the two-panel selection process the schools went through.

Both schools submitted proposals to an initial panel of education department officials in October. The panel reviewed the schools' strengths and weaknesses according to the schools' proposals.

According to Peterson, the proposals were judged and given points based on 13 criteria, including:
- Overall understanding of the work to be performed.
- Procedural and management plans.
- Existing facilities, resources and equipment.
- Staffing.
- Existing programs and experiments.
- Quality control plans.

UT received 82.9 points out of 100 points, Peterson said. OSU got 78.6.

A second panel, the Technical Review Panel, visited both schools in October.

In December, that review panel asked the schools to submit their best and final bids.

"The Technical Review Panel was to look at where it (the contract) was to go... In a five-to-one vote they picked the University of Tennessee," Peterson said.

Senators' letters sent to panel

Peterson said she knew many letters about the award — including some from Ohio Sens. Howard Metzenbaum and John Glenn — were sent to the Education Department during the selection process. The decision might have been influenced by Metzenbaum, she said.

UT distributed the letters, she added.

"Research and development simply have to be decided on the basis of research and development, or we lose," she said.

A spokesman for Glenn said the senator did send a letter to the Education Department during the selection process.

Glenn asked the Education Department to visit the competing universities and to place vocational experts on a second panel, said spokesman Cathy M. Connolly.

The second panel, which was formed after the Education Department received Glenn's letter, did visit the two universities and included vocational experts.

Metzenbaum's Washington spokesman, Roy Myers, said Metzenbaum also sent a letter to the Education Department. Myers did not say what the letter included, but said Metzenbaum always supports OSU.

Official denies unfair judging

Worthington's interpretation of the contest and of the letters differed from Peterson's story.

"We got 100 letters a day on different subjects. The letters had absolutely no influence on our decision," Worthington said. The panel does not see those letters, he added.

The first advisory panel made recommendations strictly on the vocational centers' functions and the 13 criteria used to judge the schools' proposals, Worthington said.

OSU had a solid proposal in all 13 areas, but UT was strong in only two — economics and high technology, he said.

"Their (UT's) scope was very narrow. They didn't have a good organizational plan and OSU had a solid one," he said.

One of UT's program ideas was to start an entrepreneur training program. Worthington said OSU has had such a program for five or six years.

Worthington also said the facilities at Tennessee were not as good as OSU's.

UT has some space in two small buildings for vocational education. OSU has a vocational education library and a vocational center with two large buildings.

Worthington cited experience as another reason why OSU was chosen instead of UT. OSU was chosen in 1978 as a national center and is now conducting government-funded experiments.

"The University of Tennessee does not have a single major research project funded by the government," he said.

Worthington also said the Technical Review Panel did not decide who received the contract as Peterson said, but made recommendations to the Department of Education, which then made the final decision.

Peterson said UT would have been a more cost-effective choice for the contract. OSU bid $4.4 million and UT bid $3.1 million.

But Robert E. Taylor, executive director for the OSU National Research Center in Vocational Education, said OSU bid in response to a $5.4 million U.S. Congressional minimum allocation made for the national center last summer.

"Tennessee did not base their bid on this figure," Taylor said.

Taylor said because OSU's bid came closer to the allocation minimum, it would allow the university to do more with the contract.

The five-year contract is renewable annually depending upon federal appropriations. OSU will have the contract until 1988.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The National Center for Research in Vocational Education located at Ohio State University will launch a year-long 20th anniversary celebration with two special events scheduled March 1 and March 8.

The first event is scheduled for March 1 at 3:30 p.m. in the center's headquarters, 1960 Kenny Road, in recognition of the founding date of the organization. The event will include cutting of a giant birthday cake for university faculty, staff, students and community friends.

On March 8, the center will hold its 20th Anniversary Banquet for staff and invited guests, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Ohio Union on the Ohio State campus.

These programs are the first in a series of special events by the center to mark its anniversary. During the year, the center will sponsor conferences, lectures and visits by special guests.

The center began as the Center for Vocational and Technical Education with a federal planning grant received on March 1, 1965. Robert E. Taylor, still the executive director of the center, was the founder.

The March 1 celebration will focus on a theme of "Community and Continuity." Highlighting this theme, a 20-year employee,
Research director to leave Ohio State

By Jay Cooper
Lantern staff writer

Robert E. Taylor, executive director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, announced his resignation Friday.

The center was started in 1965 to develop, evaluate and conduct research on vocational education. Taylor said the center studies technical and adult education as well as vocational education.

He said the resignation, to take effect June 30, is a move toward a less demanding lifestyle. "I just felt like it was time to shift the emphasis to other areas in my life," he said.

Taylor said he will eventually be moving to New Mexico to pursue other activities. He said despite his resignation he will continue to stay active in his profession.

Taylor served as the vocational center's director for 21 years, and has been at Ohio State for 23 years.

Mark Newton, associate director of organizational development for the center, said Taylor's leaving is a bittersweet experience. "It's something in every aspect he deserves... but it will be a very strong personal loss."

Newton said Taylor contributed greatly to the development of the center, and contributed personally to the shaping of Newton's professional career.
NCRVE founder and executive director retires

By Toni Robino

He once was an American farmer who loved the West. Though he became accustomed to three piece suits and an executive briefcase, he never gave up his boots. Soon he will return to the land he loves.

Robert E. Taylor, the founder and executive director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, is retiring from the University June 30.

Though he is moving to New Mexico, he will continue to work in the field of vocational education as a consultant.

Taylor came to Ohio State in 1961 as an education and agriculture professor. In 1965 he founded the center and has tended it as carefully as he used to tend his corn, tomatoes and other crops.

He initially founded the National Center for Agricultural Education upon coming to Ohio State. Within a few years, he says, the need for a more comprehensive type of vocational education center became apparent.

The Center for Vocational and Technical Education was opened in March 1965 with an 18-month federally-funded planning grant and Taylor as director.

"When we started the Center for Vocational and Technical Education in 1965, it was just my secretary, me and the federal grant," Taylor says.

Under his leadership the center, a national research and development organization specializing in adult, technical and vocational education, has grown and flourished. The name, National Center for Research in Vocational Education went into effect in 1978 following congressional action.

"At the time, Ohio State President Earson said in reality we had been a national center since 1965," says Taylor.

The NCRVE now employs about 225 people, has been awarded more than $128 million in grants and contracts, has held more than 1,000 conferences and completed nearly 800 major research and development projects.

"I think the center has a great future," says Taylor.

Taylor describes his career at Ohio State as demanding yet satisfying. "President Jennings once said to me, 'The days are tough but the years are great, and I agree.'"

Prior to joining Ohio State's faculty, Taylor served as the national vice president of Future Farmers of America, the executive secretary of Arizona Future Farmers of America, and then the State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture in the Arizona Department of Education.

He earned his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in agricultural education at Arizona State, and a Ph.D in agricultural education at Ohio State.

He has served in an advisory capacity for a multitude of educational, research and economic committees and councils, both in the United States and abroad.

In addition, Taylor has written 11 books dealing with education, 23 papers, 10 monographs and 31 articles.

In recognition of Taylor's service and innovation, the faculty and staff at NCRVE have established the Robert E. Taylor Graduate Fellowship Fund. The fund is designed to attract graduate students of outstanding ability to the national center and the University.

The fund will pay both a stipend and the tuition of the chosen graduate students.

Once Taylor and his wife, Barbara, are moved into their home in New Mexico, Taylor says he will spend a good deal of time working as a consultant. He also will serve on a U.S. Department of Education's advisory committee for the congressional study of vocational education.

When Taylor's not advising, consulting or writing, he will be hunting, fishing and camping. He also plans to devote more time to his photography.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Ray Ryan of Arizona State University has been named executive director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at Ohio State University, pending approval by the university's Board of Trustees.

Ryan is currently associate professor of industrial technology and coordinator of industrial vocational education at Arizona State. He was formerly the state director of vocational education for the Arizona Department of Education and deputy superintendent of public instruction for the Nevada Department of Education.

Ryan is expected to begin his duties at Ohio State Dec. 15. He will replace Chester K. Hansen, who has been acting executive director of the National Center since the retirement of Robert Taylor on June 30.

An 11-member search committee with representatives from the center, Ohio State, and the National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education recommended Ryan for the post.

"The committee believes that Dr. Ryan is uniquely qualified for the position because of his combined experience as practitioner, faculty member and administrator," said Juliet Miller, associate director of vocational education at the

-more-
National Center and chairperson of the search committee.

Miller said the committee reviewed more than 50 applications after conducting an extensive nationwide search.

"Dr. Ryan's qualifications were a strong match to the criteria we had established for the executive director," she said.

The center is a research and development organization specializing in adult, technical and vocational education.

Since it was founded in 1965, the National Center has been awarded more than $120 million in grants and contracts, held more than 1,000 conferences worldwide and completed nearly 800 major research and development projects. The National Center, at 1960 Kenny Road, now employs about 225 people.

Ryan has been at Arizona State since 1984. He was the Arizona director of vocational education from 1980 to 1983 and the deputy superintendent at the Nevada Department of Education from 1978 to 1980.

He has also held positions at the University of Nevada and the University of North Dakota.

In addition to his academic experience, Ryan is founder and owner of Ray Ryan and Associates, a private consulting firm, and has worked as a draftsman, ironworker and pipefitter apprentice.

A native of Illinois, Ryan holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin. He earned master and doctorate degrees in education from the University of Missouri.

Ryan will be accompanied to Columbus by his wife, Marianne, and their three children, Kimberly, Kristin and Matthew.

Contact: Chester Hansen, (614) 486-3655.
Written by Jeff Grabmeier. (J/213)
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio State University Board of Trustees on Friday (12/5) named Ray D. Ryan Jr. of Arizona State University as executive director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, effective Dec. 15.

Ryan also was appointed associate professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership in the College of Education.

He is an associate professor of industrial technology and coordinator of industrial vocational education in Arizona State's College of Engineering.

Ryan will succeed Robert Taylor, the center's first director, who retired on June 30. Chester K. Hansen is acting director.

Ohio State's National Center for Research in Vocational Education is a research and development organization founded in 1965 which specializes in adult, technical and vocational education. The center, at 1960 Kenny Road, employs about 225 people.

NCRVE

Four employees of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education recently received Dean Farmer Memorial Staff Recognition Awards.

The honorees are Oren Christmas, graduate research associate; Monyeene Elliott, typist 2; Tina Lankard, program associate; and Louise Vetter, senior research specialist.

Christmas serves on or chairs several center and departmental committees. He also recruits and serves as a mentor for new graduate research associates, and represents the center at national conventions.

Elliott is an expert in the center’s word processing systems and was a pioneer in using the laser printer. She was praised for doing her work with speed and accuracy.

Lankard is a leader in assigned projects and is highly rated by her supervisors. Reviewers also consistently give her products high marks.

Vetter has worked at the center for 20 years. She is a teacher, public speaker, author, researcher, counselor, advocate and consultant at the national level. One of her publications is among the top 20 bestsellers offered by the center.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Trudy Anderson, former acting state director of vocational education in Idaho, has been selected to receive the first Robert E. Taylor Graduate Fellowship at Ohio State University.

Ohio State established the fellowship last September with gifts made to the university's National Center for Research in Vocational Education development fund in honor of Taylor, who lives in Silver City, N.M. Taylor founded and for 22 years was executive director of the national center at Ohio State. He retired in June 1986.

The national center employs more than 200 professional and support staff in projects designed to make occupational education more responsive to societal needs.

The fellowship supports a doctoral-level graduate student in comprehensive vocational education who is preparing for initial or advanced leadership responsibility in a state department or division of vocational education. Every two years, one fellow will be involved in professional development programs at the national center while pursuing an advanced degree at Ohio State.

Anderson, of Boise, Idaho, will pursue a doctoral degree in comprehensive vocational education at Ohio State beginning summer quarter. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from
Oregon State University in 1971, and her master's degree in business education from Boise State University in 1979.

Anderson joined the Idaho Division of Vocational Education in 1979 as assistant state supervisor for business and office education. Later, she served as postsecondary- and adult-education coordinator and became assistant state administrator in 1983. From July 1986 to January 1987, she served as acting state director of vocational education.

She also has served as training coordinator for the Idaho Migrant Council, based in Caldwell, and taught at the Spokane (Wash.) Opportunities Industrialization Center and at Vale (Ore.) Union High School.

Contact: Jill Holland, the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, (614) 466-3655, Extension 242. Written by David Tull. (D/341)
U.S. to investigate $30 million grant

Research center to remain open during review

By GEORGE VONOSLOUS
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State, in jeopardy of losing a $30 million federal grant for its National Center for Research in Vocational Education, has been saved for the moment by a federal investigation.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Senate ordered the Department of Education to temporarily continue its five-year contract with Ohio State's center, the largest of its kind in the world.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, wrote the amendment forcing the Department of Education to continue its grant with the university pending a General Accounting Office investigation into the department's procurement process for awarding the grant.

The GAO is the investigative, nonpartisan arm of Congress.

In a press release Tuesday, Metzenbaum said he did not believe the Department of Education complied with the law in its procurement.

"We cannot allow the Department of Education to rig the competitive bidding process," Metzenbaum said. "So far, education officials have been unable to give a good reason for arbitrarily weighting the results against OSU.

"There is also no evidence that the competing universities offered adequate financial support or technical expertise for the national center."

Nancy Coffey, Metzenbaum's communications director, said the measure is aimed at heading off a Department of Education plan to award the five-year, $30 million contract to a consortium of universities, rather then renew its contract for the national center at Ohio State.

The contract for the center, which employs a staff of 200, will expire on Jan. 15, 1988. Coffey said the loss of the contract would mean the biggest layoff in OSU history.

She said the consortium does not have an adequate staff nor the facilities necessary for the project. The consortium includes universities in 10 states.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Jennings in government relations, said that when Ohio State expressed concern that the awarding process was unfair, Metzenbaum pushed for the GAO investigation.

Apparently, there was some indication the consortium had an advantage, Asher said.

"We're pleased that the GAO, which has a reputation for expertise and impartiality, will look into this matter," he said.

Asher could not say whether the center will remain at Ohio State.

"The GAO review is certainly called for," he said. "Certainly there is a chance we would retain the center. It depends on what the GAO uncovers."

Asher agreed with Metzenbaum and said Ohio State is clearly more qualified than the consortium to house the center.

"We do believe we have a superior proposal," he said. "One certainly deserving of renewal."

Asher said if Ohio State is awarded the five-year grant following the GAO investigation, the university would receive $6 million every year for five years.

Ray Ryan, director of the center, could not be reached for comment.
Reason sought for closing OSU center

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate yesterday approved an amendment requiring the U.S. Department of Education to justify its expected decision to close Ohio State University's National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The department informally has decided to award a $30 million, 5-year contract for vocational education research to a consortium of universities led by the University of California at Berkeley. The decision would eliminate 200 jobs at OSU.

The center, in one form or another, has been at OSU for 23 years.

THE AMENDMENT, proposed by Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, orders the department to wait until the General Accounting Office, Congress' research arm, can investigate the selection process.

Ohio lawmakers, led by Metzenbaum and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Columbus, say the department might have unfairly decided against OSU.

Members of the consortium, besides the University of California, are Columbia University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Rand Corp.

Metzenbaum's amendment was attached to a bill authorizing money for the Education Department.

SEN. PETER Wilson, R-Calif., said he would try to get Metzenbaum's requirement removed when a final decision on the bill is made by a House-Senate conference committee.

The research center has received federal financial support since 1978, Wylie said. OSU's 5-year contract was renewed in 1982 with a requirement that the next contract be subject to competition.

The contract with OSU expires Jan. 15. Metzenbaum said the loss of the contract would mean the largest layoff in OSU history.

Metzenbaum and Wylie said it appears inappropriate to award a contract for a national vocational center to a consortium of universities without an idea where that center will be.

ALSO, METZENBAUM said the consortium does not have a staff or facilities. Wylie said he learned that education officials were preparing to decide against OSU in late October in a meeting with education department officials.

Reps. William F. Goodling, R-Pa., ranking Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee, and Committee Chairman Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., also are asking the GAO to review the Education Department's selection criteria.

Chet Hansen, the center's deputy director, said yesterday that OSU hasn't been notified that it will lose the grant.

Hansen said education officials visited the center Sept. 30 for 6 hours and expressed approval of OSU's program. "It was a superior site visit," Hansen said.
Choice of Berkeley over OSU may reflect bias, Wylie says

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Ohio (Columbus), has suggested that the Department of Education may be biased in its recommendation that Ohio State University be replaced as the home of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The recommendation was made this fall to Education Secretary William F. Bennett. The department said a consortium, led by the University of California at Berkeley, should replace OSU.

Wylie said he is suspicious because the department's top vocational education official, Bonnie Guiton, received a doctorate in education at Berkeley in 1985. Guiton was a student at Berkeley from 1975 to 1985.

Guiton took over as assistant secretary for vocational and adult education in June, in the midst of the department's review of whether to renew Ohio State's designation as the national research center.

"I'M NOT trying to say she's crooked or immoral," Wylie said, but he questioned Guiton's impartiality.

Questions about the decision to reject Ohio State's application led the Senate on Tuesday to adopt an amendment by Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio. The amendment orders the Education Department to continue its contract with Ohio State until the General Accounting Office can review the department's selection process.

Bennett later told Rep. William F. Goodling, R-Pa., a senior member of the House Education and Labor Committee, that the department will not award the $30 million, 5-year contract until the GAO investigation is complete.

Ohio State's contract expires Jan. 15.

Preliminary results of the GAO review are expected by Dec. 19 or 20, Wylie said.

GUITON WAS not immediately available for comment. A subordinate, Glenn C. Boerrigter, refused to comment. Boerrigter was involved in overseeing the selection process, Wylie's office said.

Loye Miller, an Education Department spokesman, defended the department's review process. He said it is normal for lawmakers to complain when their districts are about to lose federal contracts.

The selection was conducted by five unnamed individuals, selected by the Education Department. They reviewed applications from Ohio State, Berkeley and Northern Arizona University.

Ohio State had a higher rating based on its written application, but the Berkeley bid was judged the best after an on-site review.

THE RATINGS gave Berkeley 86.8 points, Ohio State 83.6 points and Northern Arizona 65.8 points. Based on the written application alone, Ohio State was ahead of Berkeley, 81.2 points to 73.6 points.

Wylie also has questioned the ability of a consortium of universities to serve as a national center for vocational education research.

An analysis of the competing bids by Chet Hansen, deputy director of the vocational research center at Ohio State, said the university in Berkeley has done only one major vocational education study in the last decade.

Two other consortium members, the Rand Corp. and Columbia University in New York, have no experience in vocational education research and development, Hansen's review said.

Also, the Berkeley consortium is willing to commit only $875,097 to supplement the federal government's $30 million grant. In contrast, Ohio State is willing to provide $1.6 million.

Ohio State also has facilities and equipment valued at $7.6 million committed to the center, Hansen's review said.
NCRVE faces an uncertain fiscal future

By David Tull

The U.S. Department of Education’s negotiations with a new vocational education consortium calls into question the future of major funding for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE).

At issue is a 5-year $30 million grant that could be moved to the new group, led by the University of California-Berkeley. The proposed move has prompted a call by some Ohio lawmakers for a Government Accounting Office (GAO) review of the decision-making process.

At presstime, Ohio State had not been notified formally of the change.

The Department of Education reportedly is negotiating with the Berkeley consortium. Unless the investigation by GAO turns up irregularities or Congressional action halts the process, the contract could be awarded within the next two weeks.

“We agreed to put off granting the contract for two weeks,” says Loye Miller, press officer at the Department of Education. “By then the negotiations will be finished to grant the contract to the consortium.”

The decision was “in principle,” Miller says. It will be formalized only after negotiations.

The plan to move NCRVE’s long-time federal funding from Ohio State became public knowledge last week when both Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Columbus, announced action to delay transfer of funds while the contracting process is investigated.

Congressional action may not stop the process, though. “Naturally, if (an amendment) becomes law we will be governed by it,” Miller says. “But the contract will be awarded long before a law can be passed.”
Continued from page 1.

Metzenbaum introduced an amendment, approved Dec. 2 by unanimous consent on the floor of the Senate. It would halt the grant process and continue funding Ohio State's program until GAO can investigate. Wylie supports the bill on the House side. No timetable for voting has been announced.

Miller believes GAO will find no irregularities. "We think we followed proper procedures."

Loss of the $30 million grant for vocational education research might force a reduction in the number of NCRVE employees, but it likely would not close the center. The current contract, which expires Jan. 15, 1988, represents about 80 percent of the center's grant money.

Other funding for a wide variety of research projects comes from boards of education, states and other federal agencies, says Charles Corbato, associate provost for academic affairs administration.

"These agencies come to the center for its expertise," he says. Given time, the center probably can find other grants to make up part of the loss.

"It's not a matter of having to shut the place down," he adds. "But if we lose major funding, we could not continue the present size of staff very long."

NCRVE has about 200 employees. Civil service employees are protected by law and most of them would be absorbed into other areas of the University, Corbato notes. He estimates that about 70 people are in that category.

"The concern is for the academic and professional employees. There are about 90 people and it would be difficult to absorb them into the University," he says.

There are about 40 part-time employees, including undergraduate and graduate students.

If there are no extensions of the grant, there might be some carry-over funds, money appropriated but not yet spent, that would extend beyond Jan. 15.

An appeal by NCRVE is possible after the Department of Education gives official notification.

Metzenbaum asked GAO to examine the process by which the education department decided to shift the federal grant.

A five-member task force reviewed written applications from the Ohio State center, the Berkeley consortium and Northern Arizona University. It also made on-site inspections. The Ohio State inspection was Sept. 30.

"Ohio State was ahead seven or eight points in the written proposal," says Herb Asher, professor of political science and special assistant to the president. "But (the task force rated) Berkeley higher after the on-site review.

"We are worried whether the review process was flawed. We have questions about which criteria were employed and how they were evaluated. The department contends that it made a fair and appropriate review. We are pleased that GAO will look into this," Asher says.

A Columbus Dispatch article reported that Ohio State scored 81.2 on the written proposal against 73.6 for Berkeley. The final ratings gave Berkeley 86.8 points and Ohio State 83.6 points, the Dispatch noted.

The point scores could not be confirmed in the Department of Education. Nor would the department state why the Berkeley group won, or name who served on the task force.

"We are in the negotiation stage now and I cannot release that," Miller says. "Legally, the decision was not supposed to be announced yet."

Asked what factors in the on-site inspection gave Berkeley the edge, Miller says, "We will not comment (on details) until after the contract is granted. Then it becomes public record."

However, he adds, "There was a competition for the grant and the consortium came in first."

Both Metzenbaum and Wylie have questioned the process.

"(Metzenbaum) is questioning the way the procurement process was handled, and GAO will investigate even if the senator's amendment is not accepted by the House," says Nancy Coffey, director of public information for Metzenbaum.

The exact makeup of the consortium has not been officially publicized. Besides the University of California-Berkeley, members reportedly include Columbia University, the University of Illinois, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Rand Corp.

"We have been told that (the consortium) has no facilities and no staff. We understand that Ohio State came in with a higher score on the written proposal. The task force weighted the scores and Congress is not satisfied with answers on why it was weighted," Coffey says.

"Congressman Wylie's concern with transfer of the grant from Ohio State to Berkeley stems from the process," says Benson Hart, administrative assistant to Wylie.

"Ohio State came out 10 percent to 15 percent ahead in the written proposal, which was a document of hundreds of pages. Then, after a six-hour on-site visit, Berkeley somehow came out ahead by a very narrow margin," Hart points out.

"Congressman Wylie is relying on the GAO study to determine whether the rules for the competition (for a grant) were entirely complied with," he adds.

Wylie also is concerned because reports suggest that a new program may require one or more years of "start-up" time before research is produced, which he says is an inefficient use of tax dollars. The Ohio State program is already in place. Evaluations had no negative information about it, Hart says.

Early stories suggested that Berkeley might have received special consideration because the department's new vocational education director, Bonnie Guiton, was a student there and received her Ph.D. from the University of California.

Miller is blunt in his assessment of this charge. "Horsefeathers!" he says. "That would be illegal and improper. The director came on board in June and the competition was in progress months before that. Five outside consultants did the rating."

The Ohio State center has had federal support since 1978. Federal funds were renewed for five years in 1982, calling for the next renewal to be subject to competition.
Vocation center loses $30 million

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State has lost its bid to keep the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, the U.S. Department of Education announced Monday. The five-year, $30 million grant will go instead to the University of California at Berkeley.

The center has been located at Ohio State since 1978.

Raymond M. Morris, associate director of the vocational education center, said the center has a staff of about 200, including about 90 professional and academic employees.

It is unknown how many jobs might be affected by the decision. The center also has facilities and equipment valued at about $7.6 million.

The contract, which expires Jan. 15, represents 60 to 80 percent of the center’s grant money, Morris said. While at Ohio State, the center completed 569 projects. The announcement was made following a Government Accounting Office investigation of the procurement procedures. The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress, and its findings did not affect the decision.

A five-member task force from the Education Department reviewed the written applications of both universities and conducted on-site inspections.

According to a Columbus Dispatch article, Ohio State scored 81.2 on the written proposal, compared with Berkeley’s 73.6. The final ratings gave Berkeley 86.8 points and Ohio State 83.6.

Ray Ryan, executive director of the center, said he would not be able to make a statement until he meets with President Edward H. Jennings and other administrators.

“We haven’t had the opportunity to look at the GAO report or review any of the process,” Ryan said.

“The process came down to a numbers game,” said Benson Hart, administrative assistant to Rep. Chalmers P. Wylio, R-Columbus.

“The GAO people said that the process was seriously flawed, he said. “The peculiarities that they did uncover cast doubt on the fairness of the process.

There was concern that the procurement process might have been influenced by Bonnie Guiton, the assistant secretary of vocational education. Guiton was a student at Berkeley from 1975 to 1985 and received her doctorate in education there.

Guiton said she was not involved with the selection of the five-member panel that made the decision.

“If a ranking comes back where there is clearly a winner — one winner over the other — then that’s the way that you go,” she said. “I think OSU has a number of other opportunities that they could pursue.

“They should understand that this is not an indictment of anything that they have done wrong.”

Before the decision was made, Herb Asher, professor of political science and special assistant to the president, expressed “serious reservations about the process.” “If the due process was fair,” he said, “we would certainly live with the decision.”

Nancy Coffey, director of public information for Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said, “One of the reasons why OSU has wondered why they didn’t get the contract is that the consortium doesn’t have the staff or the facilities.”

Metzenbaum also raised the issue of matching funding. In a statement released Monday he said, “OSU is the most qualified and was willing to contribute $1 million more to the Vocational Center than its competitors.”

The GAO investigation came after an amendment, sponsored by Metzenbaum, which required the Department of Education to withhold its decision until after the investigation was completed.
Refusal of grant prompts review

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State is considering litigation regarding the university's loss of a $30 million federal grant for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, said Myles Brand, vice president for academic affairs and provost.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the grant Monday to the University of California at Berkeley. Ray Ryan, executive director for the center, said the contract was awarded to the University of Tennessee five years ago, but the award was reviewed and found to be flawed when Ohio State challenged it, and the contract was given to Ohio State.

The decision to consider legal action followed a meeting Wednesday held by President Edward H. Jennings, Herb Asher, special assistant to the president, Brand and state-appointed attorneys. Asher said a decision would be made today.

Asher said the university is considering three options: asking the Department of Education to reconsider, submitting a bid protest, or filing legal action in the federal courts.

"We're concerned about the fairness of the process," he said.

Ohio State has had the center for the past 10 years. The center, on Kenny Road, is a national resource center for materials in the field of vocational and technical education.

Asher said the $30 million grant was the single largest grant held by the university. The center received $6 million annually from the grant, representing about 80 percent of the center's total funding.

The center employs nearly 200 people, including about 90 from professional and academic fields.

Ryan said the center had prepared a contingency plan based on a "worst-case scenario" before the recipient of the grant was announced.

The plan detailed the center's response to staff needs, to the university and to the reduction of funding, from $8.5 million per year with the federal funding to $2.5 million or $3 million per year without it.

Ryan said workshops were set up to help employees learn to deal with stress, prepare resumes and look for jobs.

"We knew all along that there would be problems (getting a renewal of the grant)," Ryan said. "That's why we did such an intense job on the proposal."

Ryan said the center spent nearly a year working on the proposal.

Brand said Ohio State supports the peer-group process used by the Department of Education in awarding the grant, but is not convinced that the group was fair.

Asher said the Government Accounting Office might be investigating further on its own because the center panelist in the final decision was hospitalized during the investigation.
Vocational contract shifts to Berkeley group

By David Tull

The federal grant held for 10 years by Ohio State's National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE) will go to the University of California-Berkeley.

Awarding of the five-year NCRVE grant for $30 million was announced in Washington Jan. 4 by Bonnie Guiton, assistant secretary for vocational education in the U.S. Department of Education. The announcement followed a report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) on its investigation of the process.

Obviously shaken, Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of NCRVE, says he will meet with University officials to determine the center's options. There might be legal remedies. "We have met with attorneys and will be exploring our next steps," he says.

But the center will move ahead in dealing with loss of the grant. "We've had a contingency plan prepared for several months that considers a worse-case scenario," Ryan says.

"We will be working as hard as we can with the staff in mind through this transition. We will have to implement plans to transform the center into a different kind of entity."

No staff layoffs are planned this month, he says. Ohio State's current federal contract expires Jan. 15. Some carryover funds, money not yet spent, could extend beyond that date. "The University has a 30-day (employment) policy and we hope it will be significantly longer than that before major staff cuts are necessary."

NCRVE has about 200 employees, including about 70 protected by civil service. At that staff level, monthly salary costs are significant, Ryan says.

The education department announced last month that it would award the contract to Berkeley. The contract was delayed when Ohio Sen. Howard Metzenbaum and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie called for the GAO investigation.

The GAO gave the department its report the afternoon of Jan. 4. The investigation found "nothing arbitrary or capricious in the process," according to Darryl Carmine, special assistant to Guiton.

Even before the GAO study was complete, however, a department spokesman says, the contract process was going ahead.

"We gave GAO a deadline. First it was two weeks and then it was another two weeks, and four weeks was plenty," says Loye Miller, press officer at the Department of Education.

Early reports indicated that Ohio State scored highest for its written proposal but Berkeley ranked first after on-site visits by five evaluators.

Because Berkeley had no physical facilities to show, their site visit was "heavily weighted to questions and answers," Carmine says. Among five concerns voiced by the GAO was that site visits were not comparable. Although there

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were guidelines, each university determined how the time would be spent in the site visit, Carmine says.

Another concern was for the lack of criteria for the "substantial financial contribution" required from the host institution. Berkeley has pledged $603,000 in the first year, much of which comes from consortium members. Ohio State has facilities worth about $7.6 million already in place, plus an additional $1.2 million in financial support.

The GAO report also expressed concern that qualifications for evaluators were not clear and that the evaluators had access to preliminary scores and rank orders before the on-site visits. The GAO report also pointed out that Berkeley plans to have co-directors, although the criteria called for a single director.

Berkeley's proposal centers on a program using a half-dozen sub-contractors — universities and the Rand Corp.

The concerns listed in the GAO report are for the department's consideration in future grant competitions and do not affect the current grant, Carmine adds.

"We feel strongly that we submitted an excellent proposal for this grant and that we also had a high quality site review," Ryan says.

Ohio State has held the contract since 1978. After a challenge in 1982 by the University of Tennessee, the Ohio State contract was renewed with a requirement that the next renewal be subject to competition.

The federal grant represents 70-75 percent of the center's current funding, Ryan says.

Even without that contract, however, "NCRVE will still generate nearly $3 million over the next 12 months, maybe even more," Ryan says. In its 22 years at Ohio State, NCRVE has brought in more than $131 million, he adds.

The past 18 months have featured hard work, transition and stress, Ryan says.

"We have had a great deal of help in dealing with this stress from Sue Blan- shan and her staff (Office of Human Relations) and from Madison Scott and his staff (Office of Personnel Services)," Ryan says. Personnel staff have conducted seminars for NCRVE staff on handling stress.

Human relations staff are conducting workshops on job search strategies.
Inquiry requested in loss of federal grant

University asks for 2nd GAO investigation of $30 million award

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State is requesting another investigation concerning the U.S. government's decision to award a five-year, $30 million grant for a national vocational research center to the University of California at Berkeley.

Herb Asher, special assistant to the president, said the university filed a bid protest Thursday requesting a second investigation by the General Accounting Office.

A bid protest is the official procedure taken when bidders for federal contracts want an investigation of the award process.

In addition to filing the protest, Asher said the university also sent a letter to the Department of Education, asking the department to reconsider its decision to take the grant away from Ohio State.

If the department awards the grant to Berkeley without a second investigation, Ohio State will seek an injunction in federal district court, he said.

"Once they disperse the money, then it's very difficult to win," Asher said.

The grant was awarded Monday following an initial investigation by the GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

The university is seeking a review of the department's decision process.

"We have reason to believe the process was not fair," Asher said.

According to legal guidelines, the panel members awarding the grant should be "recognized nationally as experts in vocational education administration and research." Asher said the panel had only one nationally known person.

The assistant secretary in the Education Department, who selected the panelists, picked two people from a list of 30 prominent vocational professionals. Asher said he does not know where the other three people came from.

When the GAO investigated the expertise of the panelists, it contacted seven national vocational education associations, asking them about the professional expertise of the panelists. The five associations that responded did not recognize four of the five panelists, Asher said.

The only recognized panelist was a state director in the National Vocational Education Association, he said.

Ray Ryan, executive director of the vocational center at Ohio State, said, "All we want is a fair, honest, open, peer-review, conducted by people who are recognized as national experts in vocational education research."

Ryan said all three applications for the grant were reviewed in one week.

According to an article in Education Daily, a professional newsletter, Andrew Hartman, senior legislative associate on the House Education and Labor Commit-
OSU to fight loss of grant

Officials plan legal step to keep research center

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

Ohio State University is ready to go to court to prevent the loss of a $30 million federal grant for vocational education research, an OSU official said yesterday.

OSU wants the U.S. Department of Education to reconsider its decision to give the grant to a consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley.

If the department says today it will give the grant to Berkeley without a review, OSU will seek an injunction in U.S. District Court to halt the award, said Herb Asher, special assistant for governmental affairs to OSU President Edward H. Jennings.

OSU also filed a request for an investigation with the U.S. General Accounting Office yesterday, Asher said.

"We have reason to believe the process is flawed, and we want to determine whether that is the case," Asher said.

The $30 million, 5-year grant accounts for about 75 percent of the budget of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, which has been at OSU for 25 years. The center has received federal money since 1978.

About 200 people work at the center. Although OSU officials have said the center will remain open, jobs will be lost without the grant. OSU's funding ends next Friday.

The center trains administrators and teachers and conducts research on ways to better serve the handicapped, single parents, homemakers, prisoners and others.

Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, and Reps. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Ohio (Columbus), and Bill Goodling, R-Pa., have asked the General Accounting Office to review the matter.

GAO representatives, in oral reports to officials Monday, said the selection process apparently was flawed.

Asher said the GAO questioned whether:
• The Berkeley proposal of multiple sites and co-directors violated a requirement calling for a national center and one director.
• The reviewers of the proposals were experts in vocational education.
• The evaluation criteria were scored and weighted properly.
• The site visits at OSU and Berkeley were comparable.
• The reported Berkeley pledge of $603,000 in the first year, much of it from consortium members, met the requirement of a "substantial financial contribution" from the host institution. OSU would have provided $1.5 million and already has buildings and equipment valued at $7.6 million.
Motion is filed to stop grant

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State filed a motion in federal district court Friday to stop the U.S. Department of Education from awarding a $30-million grant for a national vocational center to the University of California at Berkeley.

Herb Asher, special assistant to the president, said U.S. District Court Judge George C. Smith, who is reviewing the case, will decide today or Tuesday whether to impose a temporary restraining order that would prevent disbursement of the money pending further investigation.

Ohio State filed the suit after making an unsuccessful appeal to the Department of Education and filing a bid protest with the Government Accounting Office for a re-review of the award process.

An initial investigation by the GAO, the non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, found "serious flaws" in the Education Department's compliance with legal guidelines concerning the process.

Those flaws included selecting panel members for the awarding committee who were not "recognized nationally as experts in vocational education administration and research" and accepting a proposal from Berkeley that called for a center with co-directors and multi-facilities. The guidelines call for the national center to have "a director."

Officials at Berkeley declined to comment.

Northern Arizona University, a third applicant for the national grant, also filed a letter of protest with the GAO concerning the award process.

Robert V. Kerwood, director of the vocational education center at Northern Arizona University, said, "We felt that the selection of the panel was not reflective of national experts in vocational education. I think that the procurement process was violated in several sections."

The $30-million grant is the first major federal grant Northern Arizona has applied for, and the center wants to get back in the bidding. The center works with 20 to 25 state grants each year totaling about $3 million, Kerwood said.

Kerwood said Arizona has proposed about $2 million in matching funds for the national center, more than either Ohio State or the Berkeley consortium.
OSU wins one in effort to keep grant

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

A federal judge in Columbus issued a 10-day restraining order yesterday to prevent the U.S. Department of Education from interfering with the operation of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at Ohio State University.

U.S. District Judge George C. Smith also asked for a written report on the process used to award a $30 million grant for vocational education research to the University of California at Berkeley. The OSU center had received the grants since 1978.

Smith's action prevents the department from hindering OSU's ability to participate in future review of grant applications. He issued the order at the conclusion of a hearing yesterday.

HERB ASHER, special assistant to OSU President Edward H. Jennings for governmental affairs, said OSU officials were pleased the court would review a written report from the U.S. General Accounting Office on the selection process.

In an oral report last week, GAO representatives indicated the process was flawed. OSU agreed and asked Thursday that the award of the 5-year grant be postponed, pending a departmental review.

When the education department did not respond immediately, OSU requested the temporary restraining order.

The GAO has not completed its report. If it is not done when the 10-day order expires, OSU could ask for an extension, Asher said.

SMITH'S ORDER did not include any provision for blocking the award of funds to Berkeley. The grant to Berkeley, as head of a six-school consortium, is effective Saturday. OSU's funding runs out Friday.

The federal money accounts for about 75 percent of the OSU center's budget. The 25-year-old center employs about 200 people.

OSU plans to continue operating the center, but the scale of operation has not been determined. Jobs will be lost, but no termination notices have been sent, Asher said. OSU may wait to see how long the legal proceedings will take before eliminating any jobs, he said.

The preliminary GAO report questioned the credentials of those who reviewed proposals, the scoring of the evaluation criteria, the handling of site visits, and whether the Berkeley consortium met financial and other requirements.
Judge issues order to stop federal grant

By MOLLY GRIFFIN

Ohio State received a 10-day temporary restraining order in federal court Monday to stop the U.S. Department of Education from awarding a $30-million grant for vocational education to the University of California at Berkeley.

District Court Judge George C. Smith issued the order in response to a motion filed Friday by Ohio State. The order stops disbursement of the grant until a review has been made of the awarding process.

Robert B. McAlister, trial attorney for Baker and Hostetler, represented Ohio State at the hearing.

"The essence of the restraining order is to prevent the department and the secretary from taking any action," McAlister said. "It keeps things at the status quo."

A temporary restraining order is granted on the basis of statements and arguments made by counsel. No evidence is presented.

McAlister said a second restraining order might be issued if a formal hearing is not held within 10 days. A restraining order is the first of three steps the university can take in its defense.

The second step is a preliminary injunction. This occurs after the formal hearing. Finally, there is a permanent injunction, which would stop the award process indefinitely.

"What the department is going to do with the money at this time is not known," he said. "It's all subject to review and revision by the courts."

The overall process could take weeks, McAlister said.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said the restraining order instructs the Department of Education not to restrain or interfere with operation of the national center at Ohio State, whose grant expires Friday.

Asher said no employees will be laid off for the next 30 days.

"If the center does lay off employees, a 30-day notice will be given to administrative and professional employees," he said. "These employees include about half of the center's more than 200 workers."
OSU seeks legal action for NCVRE

Ohio State on Jan. 8 filed suit against the U.S. Department of Education asking the court to order the department to re-conduct the grant award process for a five-year, $30 million grant for vocational education research.

As part of the suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, the University asked the court to issue a preliminary order prohibiting the department from going forward with granting the award to a consortium headed by the University of California-Berkeley.

The case has been assigned to Judge George Smith. On Jan. 11, he issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the education department from doing anything (such as destroying records or changing the proposal requirements) in the next 10 days that would adversely affect Ohio State's ability to participate in a re-review of the grant proposals if such a review is ordered.

The restraining order does not prohibit the government from giving grant money to the Berkeley consortium in the meantime, and it is unclear what would happen about any such money should Ohio State be successful in reversing the award decision, says John Winkler, attorney for the University.

The court action is one of three steps Ohio State has taken in response to the education department's decision Jan. 4 to award the grant to the Berkeley consortium.

Before filing the suit, the University tried unsuccessfully to persuade the department to voluntarily reconsider its decision.

Ohio State also has filed a bid protest with the General Accounting Office. A bid protest is an administrative procedure through which bidders on federal contracts can request an investigation by the GAO.

According to Herb Asher, special assistant for governmental affairs to President Jennings, the reason for taking these actions is to get an evaluation of the fairness of the process.

"We have reason to believe that the process is flawed, and all that we want is to determine whether that is the case," Asher says.

Last month, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, Rep. Chalmers Wylie, R-Ohio, and Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., asked the GAO to review the department's grant award process. Representatives of the GAO presented oral reports on its investigation to congressional staff members and to Department of Education staff on Jan. 4.

Later that day, the Department of Education announced that the grant would be awarded to the Berkeley consortium despite concerns raised by the GAO investigation and the fact that the GAO had not submitted the final written report requested by the Senate.

The GAO reported that the department's decision-making process may have violated congressional intent in a number of areas. For example, the GAO pointed out that the Berkeley proposal calls for multiple sites and co-directors, while the statute governing the award competition calls for a national center and a single director.
OSU training successors in vo-ed research

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

As Ohio State University fights to keep a $30 million grant for vocational education research, employees who may face layoffs are training their successors.

The OSU employees yesterday began briefing 13 people from a consortium, headed by the University of California at Berkeley, that received the 5-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education this year.

The briefing will run through Friday, when OSU's federal money runs out. OSU is required to train the new recipient's personnel under terms of the current grant, awarded in 1983.

"It's not easy for them or us, but we have a legal obligation and a professional commitment," said Ray D. Ryan Jr., director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at OSU.

"They're conducting themselves professionally, and our staff is conducting itself professionally."

OSU OFFICIALS have said they will continue to operate the center, but on what scale and with how many people has not been determined. The center now employs about 200 people.

About 75 percent of the center's $8 million budget is from the federal grant, while the rest comes from other grants, contracts and the university, Ryan said.

OSU has gone to court to protest the award of the federal grant to the consortium. Other members of the consortium are the universities of Minnesota and Illinois, Columbia University Teachers College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Rand Corp.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge George C. Smith granted OSU a 10-day restraining order to keep the federal Education Department from interfering with the operation of the OSU center.

The department also is prohibited from hindering OSU's ability to take part in future review of grant applications.

SMITH ASKED for a written report on the process used to award the grant. The U.S. General Accounting Office is preparing that report.

Officials at OSU, which was first given the grant in 1978, believe the award process was flawed. They have asked for a review by the department.

Ryan has submitted a proposal on the center's future to OSU Provost Myles Brand and Madison Scott, vice president for personnel services.

Ryan said the plan contains different scenarios on how the center can remain in operation and how many people might need to be laid off.

OSU will give 30 days' notice to people who lose their jobs, he said.
Vocation grant ends; renewal still pending

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Today marks the end of Ohio State's five-year $30-million research grant for vocational education. The grant provides 80 percent of the funds for the university's vocational center. Whether the center will get a renewal of the grant is still being decided in court.

"The department stands behind its award of the national center grant to the University of California at Berkeley," said Bonnie Guiton, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education in the U.S. Education Department.

"As litigation unfolds, we are confident the award to Berkeley will ultimately be upheld," she said.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said 150 of the 220 jobs at the center will be affected if the grant is not recovered.

Seventy of these employees are civil service employees and will probably stay with the university. Nine are tenured faculty and will also stay. The remaining 70-80 employees will probably lose their jobs, Asher said.

Ray Ryan, director of the center, said it will use its emergency funds, between $150,000 and $200,000, to keep the center operating until a decision is made by the court.

"We have a commitment from the president to continue, between now and at least the 31st of January, as we are," Ryan said.

Asher said that when the center's funds are depleted, the university will spend $10,000 daily from the general fund to keep the center open.

On Jan. 4, the Education Department awarded the grant to the University of California at Berkeley.

On Jan. 8, Ohio State filed suit against the department, asking for a re-evaluation of the award process.

Two days later, District Court Judge George C. Smith issued a 10-day temporary restraining order against the department, which prevents disbursement of the money. Ohio State will seek a second restraining order if the first expires before it gathers enough information for a hearing on the award process.

Guiton said the preliminary findings in the Government Accounting Office investigation confirm that the grant was awarded in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

"The temporary restraining order issued against us by a federal judge in Ohio does not resolve the merits of the case, except it maintains the status quo for 10 days," Guiton said.

Ryan said the center is working on a plan to present to Provost Myles Brand concerning the center's operation until the litigation is over. The plan will be developed within the next five days, he said.
OSU veteran sees dim prospects for saving big grant

$30 million battle recalls 1977 loss of federal money

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

If history repeats itself, Ohio State University may be fighting a futile battle to keep a $30 million grant, says an OSU employee who remembers the loss of another federal contract 11 years ago.

Carl Oldsen, an assistant director of the defunct National Center on Educational Media and Materials for the Handicapped, sees parallels between the loss of the $3 million grant for his center and loss of the $30 million grant for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

Both times, OSU lost to a California school. In 1977, the winner was the University of Southern California. This time, a consortium of six institutions, headed by the University of California at Berkeley, apparently has won.

BOTH TIMES, OSU was the apparent leader until sites were visited, and OSU charged the selection process was flawed. This time around, OSU has gone to federal court to protest the award to Berkeley.

In 1977, OSU lost the center for the handicapped, even after records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act showed “we were clearly the winner” in the selection process, Oldsen said.

“It didn’t make any difference,” he said. “That’s the way things happen in government procurement. You try to play by the rules, but you don’t know what they are. It’s a pretty mean business.”

Government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Education in the current case, are not likely to change their minds, Oldsen said. He cited a common response to complaints: “We might have made a mistake, but no laws were broken.”

OSU IS contending in U.S. Distrit Court in Columbus that a federal law was violated in the selection process, and that a review should be conducted.

A preliminary report by the U.S. General Accounting Office questioned the credentials of those who reviewed the proposals, the scoring of the evaluation, the handling of site visits and other aspects of the process.

Last Monday, U.S. District Judge George C. Smith granted OSU a 10-day restraining order to keep the federal education department from interfering with the operation of the OSU center and from hindering OSU’s ability to take part in future review of grant applications.

Smith also requested the GAO’s written report, which is being prepared.

OSU’s efforts in court may “just delay the inevitable,” Oldsen said. “I think it’s down the drain.”

OLDSEN IS watching current events with interest, because he joined the staff of the vocational center after his previous operation shut down. He worked at the vocational center 7 years. He is now an office automation specialist at OSU.

“I don’t think Ohio State is being singled out,” he said. The thinking may be that it is time for “some new blood,” because OSU has received two consecutive 5-year grants for the vocational center since 1978, he said.

The vocational center employs about 200. OSU wants to keep it operating, but some jobs will be lost. The federal grant accounted for about 75 percent of the center’s $8 million annual budget. Federal funding ran out Friday.

THE CENTER for the handicapped employed about 25 people, and most found jobs elsewhere at OSU, Oldsen said.

That center, which provided information on educating the handicapped, lasted 3 years at the University of Southern California and then was shut down, Oldsen said. OSU had the center from 1972 to 1977.
2nd restraining order sought to halt grant

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State filed a motion in federal district court Tuesday for a second 10-day restraining order in an effort to stop a $30-million federal grant for vocational education from being awarded to the University of California at Berkeley.

The first restraining order expires today.

Robert B. McAlister, attorney for the firm of Baker and Hostetler, which is representing Ohio State, said the judge should act on the motion by Friday.

The $30-million grant — the largest single grant held by the university — provided about 80 percent of the center's funding.

The initial restraining order, issued Jan. 11, was the first legal action taken by the university. The order forced the U.S. Department of Education to re-review its decision to award the National Center for Research in Vocational Education to a consortium headed by the University of California.

The national center has been at Ohio State since 1976.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said the restraining orders prohibit the department from "doing anything that might prevent Ohio State from participating in a re-review, should one occur."

Asher said the restraining orders are fairly routine and he anticipates the issue of a second one.

He said the university is lining up witnesses to begin taking depositions and is reviewing documents to testify against the department's decision-making process, should a formal hearing be scheduled.

Federal District Court Judge George C. Smith is waiting for the results of a Government Accounting Office investigation into the award process.

McAlister said the GAO report will be submitted to Congress late next week. A copy will be sent to Judge Smith at that time.

The GAO investigation came after a bill sponsored by Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, that required the department to withhold the award until an investigation was conducted.

"What we would be hopeful of is that the judge would find the process used in violation of federal statutes and regulations and require the process to be redone," McAlister said.

The center employs 220 people, and as many as 80 could lose their jobs if Ohio State loses the grant.

Ray Ryan, director of the center, said the center has received no new information regarding the grant.

"We're still in the same position that we have been," Ryan said. "The information changes daily and sometimes hourly."

"We feel our court case is pretty strong," he said.

Joel Magisso, associate director for the center, said, "I think that both the university and the center's leaders have taken well-timed steps to correct an outrageous decision."

Magisso said the center has held large and small meetings to keep the employees of the center informed.

"I don't think the staff employees have felt they were completely informed," he said. "It's a very difficult situation. People want to know every step in the process."

An employee of the center, who asked not to be identified, said the employees are being told the situation is "very sensitive."

"At this point nobody knows what jobs will be affected," the employee said. "I am really dismayed and appalled about the cavalier attitude in Washington that the center will be able to find other sources of income — that's not at all the case."
Judge extends hold on award

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Federal District Court Judge George C. Smith extended a 10-day temporary restraining order Thursday that will prevent the U.S. Department of Education from awarding a $30-million grant for research in vocational education to the University of California at Berkeley.

A preliminary injunctive hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 2.

Robert B. McAulister, attorney for the firm of Baker and Hostetler, which is representing Ohio State, said, "The status quo is maintained until we have a full-evidentiary hearing on this case."

The injunctive hearing will determine if there is cause to proceed with a hearing.

The Education Department awarded the grant to Berkeley Jan. 4, and Ohio State's grant expired a week ago.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said "We're pleased that the judicial process is continuing. We anticipate, as more is learned about the process, that more questions will be raised."

See GRANT, page 2

A Government Accounting Office report, which investigated the department's award process, will be available to Judge Smith Jan. 29, he said.

Asher said the Washington office of Baker and Hostetler is taking depositions from government officials involved in making the grant decision. The firm is also looking at background and related procedural documents. These include the proposals from both Ohio State and California.

Ray Ryan, director of the center, said he is still working with provost Myles Brand to determine what the center will do regarding employees who were working on federal projects when the grant ended.

The injunctive hearing follows questions that have been raised concerning the Education Department's adherence to the federal guidelines that establish the national center.

Federal legislation requires the center to have "a" director; the Berkeley consortium will have co-directors. The Ohio State center is located at one university; Berkeley proposed a consortium of five schools and a private company. Ohio State has pledged $1.5 million to the national center; Berkeley has pledged $600,000.

The decision-making panel was to consist of "nationally recognized" members of the vocational education field; three of the five members of the panel were not recognized by vocational education professional organizations.

Ohio State has been the site of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education since 1978. The five-year grant represents about 80 percent of the center's funds. With the loss of the national grant, 90 employees could lose their jobs.
Court to hear NCRVE case Feb. 10

By David Tall

A hearing in U.S. District Court in Columbus Feb. 10 and 11 will be Ohio State's next step in challenging removal from the University of a five-year $30 million vocational education grant.

It seems clear that an adverse court ruling could result in layoffs to many of the 150 employees of Ohio State's National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The University has filed suit seeking to overturn a Jan. 4 decision by the U.S. Department of Education to move the grant to a consortium led by the University of California-Berkeley. The federal money accounted for three-fourths of NCRVE's annual budget.

The lawsuit asks for a court trial and an order for the department to review the grant evaluation. Results of the hearing before Judge George C. Smith could be a windfall for NCRVE's hopes to retain the grant.

Virtually all of the evidence and legal arguments will be presented at the hearing according to John Winkler, attorney for Baker and Hostetler representing the University. Winkler is in Washington, D.C., this week taking depositions and collecting other evidence, including a written report of an investigation by the General Accounting Office.

A ruling favorable to the University might persuade the education department to conduct a new grant review. An adverse ruling probably would end University efforts to press the suit.

Just how many people would be laid off is unclear at this time. Civil service employees are eligible to find other jobs at the University, and can use seniority to displace other Ohio State employees from their jobs.

On Jan. 11, Smith granted a 10-day restraining order against the Department of Education, to prevent the department from taking action affecting the possibility of a legal reversal.

Continued on page 5.

Ray D. Ryan Jr.

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Smith extended the restraining order Jan. 21.

"Start-up funds" already have been transferred to Berkeley, according to Loye Miller, press officer with the Department of Education. "We think the lawsuit is without merit," Miller says.

"We've looked at the award process and looked at it a long time and we feel that it's bulletproof."

However, the GAO investigation, called by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, Rep. William Goodling, R-Pa., and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Columbus, reportedly found the grant review process "seriously flawed."

Ohio State charges the department departed from legal requirements when it failed to provide "nationally-recognized experts" to evaluate grant proposals and chose a consortium with co-directors rather than a single "National Center" with one director, as stipulated.

"We are prepared to abide by a fair peer review by nationally recognized experts," says Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of NCRVE. "We did what we thought was a superb job of preparing the grant application."

He points to a 2,500-page grant application bound in loose-leaf notebooks. To make information easily accessible to reviewers, data is carefully indexed and color-coded according to evaluation criteria.

"I've been told we were ahead by 8 percent in the written proposal," Ryan adds. After on-site evaluations, the Berkeley consortium was ahead with 86.8 points to Ohio State's 83.6, he says.

Ohio State has held the grant since 1978, despite a serious challenge five years ago from the University of Tennessee. Ryan who was not associated with Ohio State then, was one of the reviewers in 1982.

The federal funds have supported such projects as a study of 900 secondary school vocational education classrooms and 600 post-secondary classes to see what kind of curriculum really works in vocational education, Ryan says.

University officials agree that the $10,000 per day cost of keeping full staff in place cannot continue without the federal grant. The University has supported partially that cost since the NCRVE grant expired Jan. 15.

NCRVE staff includes about 60 classified civil service employees and about 90 administrative and professional employees. Civil service rules allow a "bumping process" based on seniority and "class series," according to Stephen Stoffel, associate vice president for personnel services.

He speculated that some NCRVE employees would be able to find jobs elsewhere in the University. "We will not be forcing people into positions. We will try to follow a natural process," he says.
Research center layoffs may hinge on hearing

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

Ohio State University may wait for the outcome of a court hearing Feb. 10 before sending layoff notices to employees of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The notices could be sent earlier if a U.S. General Accounting Office report indicates a negative outlook for OSU’s bid to keep the center, said Herb Asher, special assistant for governmental affairs to OSU President Edward H. Jennings.

OSU officials have not determined how many people will be laid off. About 170 people work at the center.

On Jan. 4, the U.S. Department of Education announced the award of a $30 million, 5-year grant for vocational education research to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley. OSU had received two consecutive 5-year grants since 1978.

OSU officials said the award process was flawed and asked for a review in U.S. District Court.

On Jan. 11, Judge George C. Smith issued a 10-day restraining order to prevent the federal education department from interfering with the operation of the OSU center and from hindering OSU’s ability to participate in future reviews of grant applications. Smith later extended the restraining order to Feb. 10.

He also requested a written report from the GAO, which investigated the selection process.

In a preliminary oral report, GAO staff members questioned the credentials of those who reviewed the proposals, the scoring of evaluation criteria, the handling of site visits and other aspects of the process.

ASHER SAID OSU attorneys and officials will review the GAO’s written report to gauge the strength of the university’s case in court. If the report does not substantiate OSU’s claims, notices of layoffs, effective 30 days later, may be sent in early February, Asher said.

If OSU’s contentions are supported in the report, university officials will wait for the outcome of the court hearing. If OSU loses then, “that’ll be the end of it,” Asher said.

Even if the result is favorable to OSU, some employees will be laid off because OSU will not be able to keep a full staff during another review of the grant applications or during an appeal by the education department, Asher said.

Federal funding, which ran out Jan. 15, accounted for about 75 percent of the center’s $8.5 million annual budget. The remainder comes from other grants, contracts and the university.

OSU plans to keep the center open, but the operation will be reduced, Asher said.

ABOUT 30 employees have retired, moved or found other jobs since the announcement that OSU lost the grant, said Ray D. Ryan Jr., center director.

Such changes, as well as pursuit of additional grants and contracts, makes it difficult to determine how many people could be laid off, Ryan said.

A worst-case scenario probably would involve the layoff of more than 100 employees, he said.
Vocational center employees face layoffs

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

As many as 100 OSU employees could be laid off while the university attempts to recover a five-year, $30-million federal grant for research in vocational education, said Ray D. Ryan, director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The center, which has been at Ohio State since 1984, employs about 200 people. The layoffs could occur by mid-February, depending on the outcome of a federal judge's decision, said Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings.

On Jan. 4, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the federal grant to a consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley. Ohio State then filed suit, claiming the department's decision-making process was flawed.

The grant represented about 80 percent of the center's total funding and was the largest single grant held by Ohio State.

Since Jan. 15, when the funding ran out, the university has been spending $10,000 a day to keep the center operating.

Asher said that with the pending litigation uncertain, the university cannot afford to keep the center fully staffed.

A hearing has been set for Feb. 10, when Judge George C. Smith will review evidence presented by OSU attorneys and decide whether a re-review of the decision-making process will take place.

The department chose to award the grant to Berkeley last year, but delayed formal announcement until a Government Accounting Office investigation regarding the decision-making process was completed. That report was officially released Monday.

Asher said if the court rules in Ohio State's favor, the government could make an appeal to stop the re-review. If successful, the decision to award the grant to Berkeley would remain final.

Even if the re-review is granted, the process could take months, Asher said, and either way, layoffs are likely to occur.

If the court rules against Ohio State, layoffs could be issued early this month. If the ruling is positive, layoffs will be issued mid-February, Asher said.

"In almost any circumstances we're going to have to issue layoff notices," Asher said. "If the judge doesn't rule in our favor, that will be the end."

He said that if the university is re-awarded the grant, the center will call the people back. Asher said the judge's decision will be made about a week after the hearing.

Sarah J. Goff, program associate at the center, said the situation has caused a lot of turmoil and uncertainty in her life. "I'm not optimistic," she said.

Goff, who has worked at the center for a little more than one year, said she is looking for another job.

Erle L. Norton III, a graduate research associate at the center for four years, said if the cuts are going to be as deep as they have been told, then he could easily lose his position.

"It's kind of disgraceful," he said. "We clearly have a good case."

He said he is not pleased with the way the government is handling the situation.

Morgan V. Lewis, a research assistant, said he was disappointed that Ohio State was not awarded the grant, and said he questions how the Berkeley consortium will be able to fulfill the requirements of a national center.

The GAO report

The GAO report was released to the university's attorneys Monday afternoon. The report will be a major piece of evidence for the the university when it appears in court Feb. 10.

The report is the result of an investigation requested by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, and the House Education and Labor Committee, after questions arose concerning the department's award process.

In a released statement, Metzenbaum said, "The GAO report confirms that the Department of Education's procurement process was flawed ... (The reviewers) disregarded the fact that OSU was willing to contribute almost a million dollars more to the program than Berkeley."
Grant award hearing starts today

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State is going to federal District Court today in an attempt to regain a five-year, $30 million federal grant for research in vocational education. The U.S. Department of Education awarded the grant to the University of California at Berkeley Jan. 4.

Judge George C. Smith will review evidence presented by OSU attorneys to determine whether the decision-making process used by the department in awarding the grant was in accordance with legal guidelines.

That evidence will include the Government Accounting Office report which analyzed the process used in awarding the grant and examined the qualifications of the panelists who evaluated the grant applications. The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress.

The report, Ohio State's key piece of evidence, was made public last week.

Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said, "(The report) does confirm some of the facts that we have claimed. It's a very factual report that reaches no conclusions."

Bonnie Gulton, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, has repeatedly said the process the department used was "fair and lawful," and that the department stands behind its decision to award the grant to the Berkeley consortium. Gulton was responsible for naming the winner of the grant.

In making her decision, Gulton used scores provided by five non-federal panelists selected by the Education Department to judge the grant applicants.

The final scores were provided to Gulton Oct. 14, 1987. Later that day, she recommended the grant be awarded to Berkeley.

According to the report, Gulton said she recommended funding Berkeley on the basis of its relative ranking with other universities and did not realize other factors could be considered.

Gulton could have considered any other relevant information, including information contained in each university's application, according to the report.

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GAO evidence examined

Continued from page 1

Guiton told GAO investigators she believed it was the normal procedure to recommend the top-ranked application be funded, regardless of other factors. Guiton said she based this decision on separate discussions with the staffs of the program office and the grants office regarding her responsibilities in the award selec-
tion process.

According to the report, Guiton said she did not read any of the applications before making her decision because she believed that if she had considered factors other than application scores, she would have been criticized for having a conflict of interest. Guiton re-

On Jan. 4 Guiton said, "If the ranking comes back here where there is clearly a winner — one winner over the other — then that's the way that you go."

The five panelists who read and scored the written applications used seven criteria totaling 100 points.

CRITERIA EXAMINED included:
required services and activities of the center (40 points); manage-
ment (20 points); quality of key personnel (15 points); experience
in and capacity for conducting research in vocational education
(10 points); adequacy of resources (5 points); budget and cost effec-
tiveness (5 points); and external relations with individuals at the
national, state and local levels (5 points).

According to the GAO report, the final scores were 86.6 points for Berkeley; 83.6 points for Ohio State; and 65.8 points for North-
er Arizona.

Each university was to undergo an on-site visit which included a presentation and review of facili-
ties, a question-and-answer ses-
sion, and a period during which the panelists could review the scores.

Ohio State and Northern Ar-
erizona gave the panelists tours of their proposed facilities; Berkeley did not. However, the panelists did tour the Berkeley facility.

BEFORE MAKING the visits, four of the five panelists com-
piled the universities' preliminary rankings based on raw scores
provided to them by the depart-
ment. At that time, Ohio State had 81.2 points; Berkeley had 73.6 points; and Northern Arizona had 56.5 points.

Although GAO investigators found no evidence to suggest the department provided panelists with the raw scores in order to influence judging, investigators did say that withholding this information could reduce the possibility of any panelist manipulating the scoring by arbitrarily increasing his or her score to offset a lower score by another panelist.

According to the report, a department official said the raw scores were provided to the panelists to give them an oppor-
tunity to discuss and explain what they perceived as strengths and weaknesses of each university's application. After this discussion, the panelists could change the scores based on their site visit if they desired.

The official who was in charge of the panelists' discussion of proposals told GAO investigators that no changes were made, according to the report.

OHIO STATE is also questioning the qualifications of the panel
members.

According to the Cari D. Per-
kins Vocational Education Act, which establishes the national center, the five panelists judging the grant competition must be "nationalsy recognized experts in vocational education administra-
tion and research."

GAO investigators surveyed the leaders of six nationally recognized vocatio-
nal education organizations to determine whether they could attest to the qualifications of the chosen panelists.

(The report) does confirm some of the facts that we have claimed. It's a very factual report that reaches no conclu-
sions.

— Herb Asher

Panelists' Scoring Adjustments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Average Scores Before Site Visits</th>
<th>Average Scores After Site Visits</th>
<th>Total Adjustments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>+ 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>+ 13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Arizona</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>+ 9.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the panel meeting in Washington, D.C., Ohio State's average raw score was 7.6 points higher than Berkeley's, but after readers adjusted their scores during the site visits, Berkeley's average raw score was 3.2 points higher than Ohio State's.

THE UNIVERSITY is also ques-
tioning Berkeley's proposal for a consortium rather than a single center.

According to the report, a department official said Berkeley's proposal to form a consortium with five other institutions was acceptable because the Perkins Act permits subcontracting with "other public agencies and public or private institutions of higher education."

The official also said, however, that it was the department's position that the applicant — regardless of its subcontracting or affiliation arrangements — must assume all fiscal responsibility for the grant.

The Berkeley application proposed to share fiscal responsibility with its proposed affiliates.

THIS ITEM was a major point in the department's grant negoti-
a tions, but the situation was resol-
v ed when Berkeley agreed to be solely responsible for its contribu-
tion.

Another legal question raised by Ohio State concerns Berkeley's proposal of co-directors. Ray D. Ryan, director of the center, said the center employed almost 250 people. By Jan. 31, 30 employees had resigned.

Asher said because of the litiga-
tion, the university has been unable to maintain the center's staff. More than 100 employees could be laid off.

The center has facilities and equipment valued at $7.6 million.

The GAO report was conducted at the request of Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.
160 may lose jobs at OSU center

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The staff of Ohio State University's vocational education research center could be reduced to 40 from 200 if OSU does not regain a federal grant, the center director said yesterday.

Ray D. Ryan Jr. gave the estimate while testifying in U.S. District Court.

OSU is suing the U.S. Department of Education. The university says the department improperly awarded a 5-year, $30 million grant for vocational education research to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley.

OSU had received two consecutive 5-year grants since 1978 to operate the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

Without the federal money, which represented about 75 percent of the center's $8.5 million annual budget, OSU must curtail operations and lay off workers.

No employees have been laid off but notices will be sent soon unless Judge George C. Smith rules in OSU's favor, Ryan said.

THE UNIVERSITY wants Smith to order the department to appoint a panel of nationally recognized experts to review the grant applications; to give that panel applications that meet regulations; and to designate the center according to the advice of that panel.

OSU attorneys said yesterday that not all five members of a panel that reviewed three grant applications were nationally recognized experts in vocational education administration and research.

In addition to OSU and the Berkeley consortium, Northern Arizona University applied for the grant.

OSU's attorneys, John F. Winkler and Robert B. McAlister, said the education department's failure to choose such experts violated regulations in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984.

OSU CALLED four witnesses who said they did not consider three of the panel members to be experts. The vote was mixed on two other panel members.

The three panel members described as not being experts were Phillip S. Atkinson, a professor at Baruch College, City University of New York; Donald G. Roberts, a faculty member at Marymount University; and Thomas J. Sullivan, founder and president of a technical college in Connecticut.

The witnesses' views varied on the expertise of Donald H.C. Eshelby, an administrator with the Idaho State Division of Vocational Education, and Dorothy O. Horrell, a vice president for the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System.
WITNESSES INCLUDED

Daniel Dunham, a former acting assistant secretary for the federal education department and now a professor at Oregon State University; Gene Bottoms, a consultant and former director of the 43,000-member American Vocational Association; and Francis Tuttle, a consultant and president of the American Vocational Association.

Sharon L. Reich, an attorney for the education department, said, "This should not be a polling contest or a name recognition contest... Even (OSU's) experts disagree on who are the nationally recognized experts."

Dunham, a former employee of the OSU center, said that despite room for some difference of opinion, "there is a recognizable group of nationally recognized experts in vocational education."

ANYONE WITH wide experience in vocational education could come up with a list of the top 25 nationally recognized experts, Tuttle said.

Federal funding to OSU ended Jan. 15. The center has remained open with money from other contracts and from the university.

Ryan said the center does applied research on issues in vocational education and distributes information nationally. The center also serves as a clearinghouse for research by others.

The hearing will continue today.
Qualifications of panelists questioned in grant hearing

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State and federal attorneys questioned witnesses Wednesday about the five panelists chosen by the U.S. Education Department to select a site to receive a five-year $30-million grant for vocational education research.

The testimony, before U.S. District Court Judge George C. Smith, was part of a hearing to determine if the Education Department followed legal guidelines in moving the National Center for Research in Vocational Education from Ohio State to the University of California at Berkeley.

Witnesses included Ray D. Ryan, director of the Ohio State center; Daniel Dunham, the state director for vocational education in Oregon; Gene Bottoms, a consultant for the center; and Francis Tuttle, president of the American Vocational Education Association.

The witnesses were asked what they thought constituted an expert in vocational education, and if they thought the panelists, who made the award decision, fit that description.

The federal lawyers questioned the wording of the Perkins Act, which established the center, that says the experts chosen must be “nationally recognized experts in the field of vocational research and administration.

All the witnesses said they recognized panelist Donald H.C. Eashley and considered him an expert in vocational education and research. They also said he was qualified to be on the panel.

Another panelist, Dorothy Ortner Horrell, was considered to be marginally qualified by everyone except Bottoms.

The remaining three panelists were not recognized by any of the witnesses.

Tuttle testified that he thought only Eashley was qualified to be called an expert in vocational education.

Dunham said Horrell was regionally recognized and was moving toward national recognition.

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Other panelists included Phillip S. Atkinson, Donald G. Roberts, and Thomas J. Sullivan.

The qualifications of Berkeley’s directors were also questioned. Ryan said he was unfamiliar with the recent work of Berkeley’s director. Bottoms, however, did not question the director’s qualifications. Bottoms also recognized the associate director.

Robert McAllister and John Winkler, attorneys from the firm of Baker and Hostetler, represented Ohio State. Frederick M. Morgan Jr. and Sharon L. Reich represented the Department of Education.

The Education Department’s brief stated that Ohio State’s complaint lacked factual support, and “that because the funding (and contract) for the National Center has been awarded to Ohio State twice in the past, and Ohio State was not selected for the grant this time, there must have been some impropriety in the application review process.”

In the opening statement, Reich said the technicalities of a single center and substantial contributions were not issues for the panelists to consider.

Berkeley originally proposed $93,000 in funding, but later increased its proposal to $203,000.

Reich said the $803,000 proposed contribution by Berkeley was acceptable because it represented 10 percent of the total grant. Ohio State proposed $1.6 million in funding.

She said Berkeley’s change was a technical clarification, not a modification.

The panelists are only supposed to determine the merits of the proposals, and the Education Department decides the other issues, Reich said.

Ryan said that when he received the list of the panelists in September 1986, he and his staff thought the people chosen were not “nationally recognized.” He said he decided not to pursue the issue because he did not want to jeopardize Ohio State’s chances of receiving the grant.

Government attorneys questioned if the conclusions drawn by the witnesses were made on personal experiences with the panelists or just what they read on the resumes.
Berkeley vocational plan ripped by OSU

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Attorneys for Ohio State University filed a complaint against the University of California at Berkeley to task yesterday for failing to meet federal regulations in its application for a $30 million vocational education research grant.

But a Berkeley official maintained in U.S. District Court that the application contained only "minor cosmetic errors," and that the substance of his university's proposal was in compliance.

OSU is suing the U.S. Department of Education. The university said the department improperly awarded a 5-year, $30 million grant to a six-member consortium headed by Berkeley. Two days of testimony ended yesterday in trial before Judge George C. Smith. The attorneys have until Feb. 26 to file additional documents.

Since 1978, OSU has received two consecutive 5-year grants to operate the National Center for Research in Vocational Education. Federal funding for the center expired Jan. 15.

The federal money represented about 75 percent of the center's $8.5 million annual budget. Although no notices have been sent, OSU officials have said up to 160 of the center's 200 employees may be laid off.

ACCORDING TO OSU attorneys:

- Not all five members of the panel that reviewed the three grant applications were "nationally recognized experts" in vocational education administration and research. In addition to OSU and Berkeley, Northern Arizona University applied for the grant.
- Berkeley's application was ineligible because it proposed a consortium, rather than one university, and co-directors rather than one director, as specified in the regulations.
- Berkeley's proposed contribution of $93,244 did not count as the "substantial financial contribution" specified in the regulations. The other consortium members were to contribute an additional $352,566, for a total of $855,597. OSU's proposed contribution was $1.5 million.

CHARLES BENSON, director of the proposed center at Berkeley, said he regretted he had not edited the grant application, which contained "minor cosmetic errors."

"There was the use of words that were inappropriate in some instances in discussing the organization of the center," he said.

Despite references in Berkeley's application to a consortium and co-directors, "there was never any uncertainty about Berkeley being in the lead and my being the director," Benson said.

Gordon Swanson, the University of Minnesota professor who was named associate director of the Berkeley center, testified he never doubted the leading roles and responsibility of Berkeley and Benson.

Victor Westbrook, chief of the research and demonstration branch of the U.S. Department of Education's grants division, said some parts of Berkeley's application were unacceptable, and the university was permitted to make changes.

A negotiation period is not unusual for a large grant, he said. The process began after Berkeley was recommended by an assistant secretary of education, he said.

ALTHOUGH BERKELEY referred to a consortium in its application, other references in the same document described a "prime contractor: and subcontractor" relationship, Westbrook said. He said a consortium indicates "all parties share in the work and profits," while subcontracting involves a single institution as the directing unit.

"I told Berkeley they would have to clean up the ambiguity, what was mis-termed as a consortium arrangement," Westbrook said.

He said he also questioned the designation of co-directors, and Berkeley changed Swanson's title to associate director.

Once told that the required "substantial financial contribution" had to come from the principal institution, Berkeley increased its portion to $603,000.

THE CHANGES that resulted from the negotiations "did not change the substance" of Berkeley's application, Westbrook said.

Smith asked why OSU's score, which was the highest after the application review and before the site visits, only went up 12 points after the visit, when Berkeley's rose 65 points.

"Anyone can make any assertion on a piece of paper," Westbrook said. "We were making sure those assertions could effectively be carried out. The incumbent's score might tend to be more static, (since) there are not a lot of unknowns. With a new applicant, we may get there and be impressed. . . . It looks better than we anticipated."
Berkeley director calls errors 'cosmetic'

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

The University of California at Berkeley's application for a five-year, $30-million federal grant for vocational education research contained "minor cosmetic errors," said the director of the Berkeley National Center for Vocational Education, Charles S. Benson. Benson testified Thursday in the second and final day of a federal hearing to determine if the U.S. Department of Education followed legal guidelines in awarding the grant to Berkeley.

Ohio State, which has operated the national center since 1978, believes the awarding process was unfair and is asking for a re-evaluation of the application.

Ohio State employed more than 200 people at the center, 160 of whom may lose their jobs. During litigation, Ohio State has been spending $10,000 a day to keep the center operating.

One of Ohio State's legal questions concerns the host university's financial contributions to the center.

The Berkeley application initially proposed a first-year contribution of $686,000, of which only $33,000 was from the university itself. The rest of the money was from a five-member consortium with whom Berkeley proposed to operate the center.

Victor Westbrook, chief of research grants for the Education Department, said Berkeley agreed to contribute the entire amount when it was informed that the legislation outlining the award process required it to do so.

The other applicants, Ohio State and Northern Arizona University, proposed $1.6 million and $2.1 million respectively.

In addition to not allowing Berkeley's consortium members to share financial responsibility for the center, the legislation also does not allow the center to be a consortium. According to the Carl D. Perkins Act, the national center must be a single center.

Westbrook said when the department was in negotiating stages, Berkeley changed the consortium to a "center" and agreed to assume full responsibility for the national center.

Benson said the term consortium was used "generically" in the application to describe the legal contractual agreements Berkeley would be making with the other institutions.

Also in Berkeley's application was a proposal for co-directors.

Westbrook said the term "co-director" was replaced with "director" and "assistant director" during negotiations with the department. He said this was a "minor infirmity" with the Perkins Act.

Westbrook said the fact that scoring changes were made after site visits to each of the three universities was not uncommon. This "happens quite frequently," he said. Ohio State had been ahead in the scoring before the visits.

A site visit can be very impressive and confirm the applicant's proposal, Westbrook said.

Concerning the qualifications of the five panelists who judged the grant applications, Benson said he had never heard of three of them.

These panelists were Thomas J. Sullivan, founder and president of a technical college in Connecticut; Phillip S. Atkinson, a professor at Baruch College; and Donald H.C. Ehshelby, director of program services for the Idaho division of vocational education.

The two panelists Benson did recognize were Donald G. Roberts, a faculty member at Marymount University in Virginia; and Dorothy G. Horrell, a vice president for the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System.

Ehshelby, the only panelist who testified, said he had not heard of Atkinson, Sullivan and Roberts before the grant review process.

U.S. and OSU attorneys have until Feb. 28 to file their post-hearing briefs, after which the judge will review the evidence and rule on the motion.

If the judge decides in favor of Ohio State and re-evaluation, the Education Department has 30 days to appeal.
Sides air views in NCRVE case; await ruling

By David Tull

It probably will be next week before a federal court decides the fate of a five-year $30 million federal grant for vocational education research, a grant held by Ohio State for the past 10 years.

Ohio State has filed suit against the U.S. Department of Education, asking for reevaluation of the grant proposals. Testimony in U.S. District Court in Columbus ended Feb. 11. Principals in the lawsuit have until Feb. 23 to submit final briefs to Judge George C. Smith.

Early in January, the U.S. Department of Education announced that the grant would go to a consortium headed by the University of California-Berkeley. Ohio State's grant, which expired Jan. 15, was about three-fourths of the current funding for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

Charging that the department's granting procedures violated federal law, Ohio State asked the court to require a new evaluation of the grant proposals.

Among the issues raised by Ohio State are the following:

- The law calls for evaluation by a panel of "nationally recognized experts in the field of vocational research..." But experts in the field who testified and those questioned by the General Accounting Office (GAO) could recognize only one or two of the five evaluators, according to Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of NCRVE. The GAO investigation was called by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Columbus.

- The law calls for a single center with a single director. Berkeley initially proposed the consortium involving several institutions and co-directors.

- The law requires a major contribution by the host institution. Berkeley initially proposed a contribution of about $90,000 with members of the consortium providing additional support for a total of about $600,000, Ryan says. Ohio State stood ready to supply $1.6 million and has facilities in place worth more than $7 million.

The latter two issues were "negotiated away" by the department, Ryan says. Berkeley was directed to provide more than $600,000 of its own in matching money. Also, Berkeley will supply a single director and list other institutions in the consortium as subcontractors. "They essentially changed the entire context of the proposal that was reviewed by the five evaluators," he says.

"We are just asking for a peer review from people who meet the requirements of being nationally recognized experts in vocational education research and administration," Ryan adds.

"If we lose in court, we will have to reduce the size of the national center's staff to just those who are working on existing grants and contracts," Ryan says.

Even a favorable ruling in court might not save all of the jobs. "It depends on how fast things happen," Ryan says.

"The University has been very supportive, but we must get this wrapped up quickly so we can stop the drain on University funding," NCRVE payroll costs the University about $10,000 a day without the federal funds."
50 vocation center workers get layoff slips for March 21

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Lantern staff writer

Fifty employees of Ohio State's National Center for Research in Vocational Education received layoff notices Thursday because of the loss of a $30-million federal grant. The grant was awarded Jan. 4 to the University of California at Berkeley.

In October, when the center first learned it would not receive the grant, 220 employees were working, said Ray D. Ryan, director of the center. When the layoffs take effect March 21, the center's staff will be about 80, he said.

The remaining 90 employees have already left the center through early retirement or for other jobs, he said.

Ryan said the notices were delivered by hand to employees by area supervisors. The employees were also given a chance to meet with Mike Morris, associate director, and Jill Holland, administrative associate, about their unemployment rights.

Steve W. Stoffel, associate vice president of personnel services at Ohio State, said of the 50 employees notified, 16 were civil service, seven had filed for early retirement, and five were faculty members who will return to the classroom.

He said 12 civil service employees will be relocated within the university. The remaining 22 employees will be assisted in finding employment in the university, although such employment is not guaranteed.

The layoff notices mean employees will get first priority if people are called back.

"I've been advising employees all along to prepare resumes," Ryan said, "because the court case could drag out awhile."

Ohio State has been fighting the decision of the U.S. Department of Education to award the five-year grant to Berkeley. The funding had provided almost 80 percent of the center's total operating costs.

Ohio State is claiming the department did not follow legal guidelines when reviewing the grant applications.

A federal district court judge will rule on the case after Feb. 26.

Ryan said if the judge does not rule in Ohio State's favor, more people will be laid off.

"It was a very difficult first wave in terms of layoff notices," Ryan said. "The next wave will be equally difficult, leaving us with a staff of about 40-50 people."

Ida M. Halasz, a research specialist at the center, gave notices to five members of her staff.

"It was the hardest thing I've ever done as a manager," she said.

"The people who have not been given notices are walking around with survivor guilt, and the people who have been given the notices are saying, 'Why me? Why not the other person? Why am I the first round?" Halasz said.

Halasz said she would not be surprised if her job was terminated at some point.

"I personally don't expect any special treatment," she said.
OSU vocational center lays off 70 workers

Seventy Ohio State University employees were laid off yesterday, and another 20 might lose their jobs within a month.

Another 70 workers at the National Center for Research in Vocational Education have resigned since Jan. 1 to seek other jobs.

The workers quit after the federal government awarded a 5-year, $30 million vocational education research contract to a group of colleges led by the University of California at Berkeley.

That effectively closed OSU's center, which got about 75 percent of its $8.5 million yearly budget from federal grants. The center had received two 5-year contracts since 1978.

The 70 workers laid off yesterday will remain on the payroll for 30 days. The center will then have about 60 employees left.

If a court decision challenging the California contract award goes against OSU, about 20 more workers will lose their jobs. About 40 will remain to continue OSU-financed work.

U.S. District Court Judge George C. Smith is to rule on the issue this month.
NCRVE grant case rests with court

By David Tull

About 50 employees of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE) are job hunting as officials await a legal decision affecting a $30 million federal grant.

The grant, spread over a five-year period, was awarded in January to a consortium headed by the University of California-Berkeley. Previously, NCRVE had held the grant since 1978 and it represented about 75 percent of its funding, according to Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of NCRVE.

"This is a very difficult time for our people," Ryan says about the layoffs. "We feel we submitted a winning proposal. Many of our staff are taking it very hard."

Ohio State is contesting the award in U.S. District Court on the basis that significant regulations for evaluating the grant proposal were not followed by the U.S. Department of Education. Testimony ended Feb. 11 and Judge George C. Smith is reviewing the case.

The University and Department of Education had until Feb. 26 to file any additional supporting materials, according to Herb Asher, professor of political science and special assistant to President Jenkins. "We expect a ruling within a week or so," he says.

Meanwhile, 30-day layoff notices went out to NCRVE employees in mid-February. A total of 71 notices were issued, including graduate and undergraduate students and part-time employees.

Virtually all of the students who work at NCRVE and most part-time employees received notices. "Four or five full-time employees are going to part-time," Ryan says. Otherwise, no part-time staff will remain.

About 50 full-time employees received notice. Of that group, five have applied for early retirement and five are faculty who will return to the classroom, says Stephen Stoffel, associate vice president for personnel services.

He describes the situation as "very dynamic — it changes from day to day." A few layoffs have been rescinded as vacancies occur within NCRVE. Eighteen civil service employees probably will be relocated within the University. "I'd be surprised if we have even two or three (civil service employees) actually laid off."

"Our civil service employees, almost without exception are moving into other jobs, many of them at higher levels," Ryan says.

The 22 administrative and professional staff layoffs are another matter. "Opportunities exist especially if they are willing to relocate," Stoffel says. "The University is doing everything it can to help them relocate both within the University and elsewhere."

When layoffs are complete, NCRVE will have about 80 employees, Ryan says. The center is "aggressively seeking other funding," he adds. It has applied for more than $3 million in funding that Ryan says the center has from a 50 percent to a 70 percent chance of receiving.

No matter what the court's ruling, the layoffs are not likely to be rescinded. In fact, if Ohio State loses its appeal for a new review of the federal grant and does not obtain additional outside funding, about 40 more layoffs will be necessary, Ryan says.
Judge gives OSU new shot at research center

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The Ohio State University still has a chance to retain the national vocational education research center because of a court injunction issued yesterday.

U.S. District Judge George C. Smith ruled in Columbus that the U.S. Department of Education improperly awarded a five-year, $30 million grant for vocational education research to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley.

Smith ordered:

- That the U.S. secretary of education vacate the designation of Berkeley as the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

Without the grant, which makes up 75 percent of the center’s $8.5 million annual budget, OSU has been forced to cut back operations. A full-time work force of 200 has been reduced to 80 by layoffs and resignations since Jan. 1.

“This is a very substantial and complete victory,” OSU attorney Robert B. McAlister said of the ruling.

Larry Thompson, special assistant to OSU President Edward H. Jennings, said the ruling does not mean a return to full staff for the center, yet.

“What we sought and what we obtained was a chance at a fair review,” Thompson said. “The ruling doesn’t change the funding, but sets up a re-review of the funding process.”

The center does applied re-

search on issues in vocational education and distributes information nationally. The center also serves as a clearinghouse for research by others.

Federal funding to OSU ended Jan. 15. Money from the university and other contracts has enabled the center to remain open.

About 50 OSU employees at the center were laid off last month, and 70 workers at the center have resigned since Jan. 1 to seek other jobs.

“Hopefully we will receive the grant and bring those people back to work,” Thompson said.

Loye Miller, press secretary to U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett, said the department stands behind its decision.

“We continue to believe that the department acted entirely properly in awarding the national center grant to Berkeley,” Miller said.

“Since we have not yet seen the district court decision, we cannot comment on its reasoning, but because we disagree strongly with the court’s conclusion, we will certainly appeal the decision.”

In a hearing last month before Smith, OSU attorneys argued that not all five members of a panel that reviewed three applications for the grant were nationally recognized experts in vocational education administration and research, as required by the Perkins Act.

OSU produced four witnesses who said they did not consider three of the panel members — Phillip S. Atkinson, a professor at Baruch College, City University of New York; Donald G. Roberts, a faculty member at Marymount University; and Thomas J. Sullivan, founder and president of a technical college in Connecticut — to be experts.

Northern Arizona University applied for the grant along with OSU and the Berkeley consortium.

Members of the consortium are Berkeley and the universities of Minnesota and Illinois, Columbia University Teachers College, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, and Rand Corp.
March 17, 1988/onCampus/3

Smith: NCRVE grant process flawed

By Ruth Gerstner

Ohio State has won a round in the fight over federal funding of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

Judge George C. Smith ruled March 15 in federal district court in Columbus that the U.S. Department of Education acted illegally in granting a five-year, $30 million grant for vocational education research to the University of California-Berkeley.

He ordered that the national center designation be taken away from Berkeley, that Berkeley's grant application be returned as ineligible, and that the award process start over.

The ruling will have no effect on the recent layoffs of University employees at NCRVE, says Herb Asher, special assistant to President Jennings and professor of political science.

"First of all, the Department of Education has 30 days to appeal this decision," Asher says. "Then if the judgment does stand, there will have to be another whole round of competition and there's no guarantee that Ohio State would be awarded the grant this time."

Ohio State had filed suit against the education department Jan. 8, alleging that the department had violated the law's intent in the way it had conducted the grant review process and that Berkeley had not met the statutory requirements for the grant.

Asher says Smith's ruling Tuesday was just what the University had hoped for. "This reinforces our belief that the grant review was improperly conducted in this situation," he says. "What we have challenged all along is the review process, not the fact that Ohio State lost. We just want a fair review of our application in accordance with the law, and that's what this ruling will give us."

Smith agreed with Ohio State's contention that the Berkeley proposal did not follow the clear congressional intent of having one center at a single location with one director. "The (education) secretary's attempt to explain away the unambiguous statutory requirement is woefully inadequate," Smith wrote.

He also found that Berkeley failed to meet adequately another requirement — that the funded university provide "substantial financial contribution" toward establishment of the national center. In negotiations conducted after the grant award, Berkeley agreed to increase its financial contribution from $93,241 to more than $600,000 annually.

Smith found, "These actions are admissions by the secretary (of education) and Berkeley and support the conclusion that the Berkeley application was ineligible at the very threshold of this process."

Smith refused to rule on Ohio State's third contention — that the five-person grant review panel did not consist of "recognized national experts in vocational education administration and research." He said that such a determination of competence is not subject to judicial review.
Ohio State still has shot at vocation grant

By Scott Bowman
Lantern staff writer

A court injunction allowing Ohio State to retain the National Center for Research in Vocational Education was issued March 15 by Judge George C. Smith.

Smith ruled in federal court that the U.S. Department of Education acted illegally in granting the five-year, $30 million grant to the University of California at Berkeley.

He ordered that Secretary of Education William Bennett take the following three steps:

- Revoke the National Center for Research in Vocational Education designation from Berkeley.
- Return Berkeley’s grant application as ineligible.
- Start a new award process that complies with congressional laws.

Federal funding to Ohio State ended January 16 after the Department of Education awarded the grant to the University of California at Berkeley. Since then, the OSU center has stayed open by using money from its emergency fund.

Larry Thompson, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said the center could face more potential cuts in staff size if the Department of Education were to appeal and win the grant for Berkeley.

Herbert Asher, special assistant to Jennings, said if Ohio State was able to get the center back on a permanent basis, as many people as possible would be rehired from the original staff.

The center employs nearly 200 people, but since the grant was lost, 50 people were laid off and 10 others have resigned to take other jobs.

OSU attorney Robert B. McAllister said the ruling was a victory for the university because Ohio State argued that the Berkeley proposal did not follow regulations under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984. Smith agreed with many of the OSU contentions.

McAllister said the act requires that the center be associated with one university and one director.

Berkeley’s proposal described the director position in terms of co-directors and called for a consortium that also included the University of Illinois, the University of Minnesota, The Rand Corporation, Teachers College of Columbia University and Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University.

Ohio State also argued that Berkeley’s financial contribution toward the establishment of the center was not substantial, McAllister said.

Berkeley changed its annual contribution from $93,241 to more than $600,000 during negotiations with the secretary after the grant was awarded; according to court records.

Judge Smith wrote, “These actions are admissions by the secretary and Berkeley and support the conclusion that the Berkeley application was ineligible at the very threshold of this process.”

McAllister said Smith did not rule on Ohio State’s contention that the secretary’s review panel for the applications was not wholly comprised of nationally recognized experts in vocational education administration and research.

“Such a determination is beyond the competence of this Court and is not subject to judicial review,” Smith wrote. “This Court will not substitute its judgment for that of the secretary.”

Amy L. Schwartz, acting deputy general counsel for the council for program services for the U.S. Department of Education, said they are preparing to file an appeal, but do not have an approximation of when it will be done.

“We believe that the department acted entirely properly and we disagree strongly with the court’s reasoning and conclusions,” Schwartz said. “Accordingly, we will appeal this decision.”

Charles Benson, proposed director for the center at Berkeley, said he was disappointed with Judge Smith’s decision and understood the Department of Education would appeal.

Jerry Hayward, deputy director of vocational education at Berkeley, said he was disappointed with the court’s decision and is waiting to see what happens.

“We have a great deal of respect for Ohio State and feel they are a very worthy adversary,” Hayward said. “Whatever institution wins, vocational education will be well served.”
CORRECTION

In the story, "Ohio State still has shot at vocation grant," in Monday's Lantern, the first paragraph of the story was incorrect. The court injunction did not allow Ohio State to retain the grant; it merely allowed for a new award process and review of applications.
Appellate court is next stage for NCRVE case

By David Tull

The legal process is far from over even though the National Center for Research in Vocational Education has won the first round in its suit over federal funding.

Federal Judge George C. Smith on March 15 issued a ruling favorable to Ohio State. Ohio State had challenged U.S. Department of Education procedures in awarding a five-year, $30 million grant for vocational research to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California-Berkeley.

The education department filed a request last week with Smith to stay execution of his judicial order, pending an appeal. An appeal is expected to be filed soon in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Cincinnati.

Smith ruled that the department failed to follow legal imperatives in making the award. He ordered the department to vacate Berkeley’s designation as national center, to return Berkeley’s contract application as ineligible, and to begin anew an award process that follows federal regulations.

“We disagree with almost everything in the judge’s ruling. We are confident that we conducted a perfectly lawful competition in compliance with all legal requirements,” says Amy Schwartz, executive assistant to the general counsel in the Department of Education.

She declines to give details, but says the department will ask that the appeal be expedited. “It’s not impossible for it to be done in 60 days.”

The status of the actual grant money meanwhile is unclear. When the department awarded the grant to Berkeley Jan. 4, money for the first year of operation was “made available,” Schwartz says.

“I can’t say whether it was a full year’s funding ($6 million) or not,” she says. If Berkeley ultimately loses the grant, any money not spent “remains with us,” Schwartz explains. “I understand that Berkeley has been reluctant to start spending it. Whether money already spent must be returned will be decided by the judges,” she adds.

In Columbus, action is pending on the request for a stay, according to John Annarino, law clerk for Smith. Smith was to return from vacation early this week.

Although not yet clear, the ruling by Smith is not likely to rule Berkeley out as an applicant, Annarino says.

With a much-reduced staff, NCRVE is operating with funds from other contracts and with some University support. While the legal process is pursued, there has been some discussion in Washington of providing interim support for NCRVE.

Ohio State’s NCRVE has held the federal grant since 1978. The funding represented about 75 percent of NCRVE’s budget.

To meet reduced funding, NCRVE cut 20 part-time or student employees and gave 30-day notices to about 50 full-time employees. Those employees left NCRVE on March 18. Perhaps another 100 employees left voluntarily after the initial grant decision was announced.

With the grant still in limbo, employees cannot be rehired, according to Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of NCRVE. Staffing is at about 90 individuals, he says.

“We do not anticipate any further layoffs at present,” Ryan says. The watershed for further cut-backs would be June 30, if the center does not receive additional funding, he says. Such funding could come from the federal government or from other agencies. The center is “aggressively seeking additional funding,” Ryan stresses.
OSU research center to get $2 million

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Ohio State University's National Center for Research in Vocational Education is to get $2 million from the federal government to help it continue operating through September.

The money will end layoffs and may result in some laid-off employees being rehired at least temporarily.

The money was included by House-Senate conferees in a federal education bill at the request of Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

Nancy Coffey, Metzenbaum's press secretary, said conferees agreed to provide $2 million to both Ohio State and the University of California at Berkeley, OSU's chief competitor for a five-year, $30 million federal contract to operate the center.

The Education Department in January decided to award the contract to Berkeley. Ohio State appealed that decision, and on March 15 U.S. District Judge George C. Smith of Columbus ordered the department to rebid the contract.

Loyd Miller, a department spokesman, said yesterday the decision will be appealed to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Metzenbaum was a member of the conference committee that reached the agreement. The conference report is expected to win approval after Congress' Easter recess.

Michael Morris, the OSU center's associate director, said the $2 million will allow the center to do some research it proposed in its application to the department.

Since last October, the number of employees at the center has dropped to about 100 from 220, he said. The number would have dropped further if Smith had not ruled in Ohio State's favor on March 15, Morris said.
Vocational center at OSU wins stay

Ruling means program won't move, for now

A national vocational research center that had been bound for California will stay at The Ohio State University, at least temporarily.

U.S. District Judge George C. Smith yesterday refused to revoke an injunction that allows Ohio State to keep the National Center for Research in Vocational Education. OSU has operated the center since 1978.

The U.S. Department of Education had asked that the injunction be suspended so it could award a five-year, $30 million grant to run the center to a six-member consortium led by the University of California at Berkeley.

Smith enjoined the department March 15 from giving the grant to the consortium, saying it had been awarded improperly.

Loye Miller, an Education Department spokesman, said the March 15 decision will be appealed to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

OSU requested the injunction after it was announced in January that the California consortium would get the grant.

OSU had received two consecutive five-year grants since 1978 to operate the center.

Federal funding to OSU ended Jan. 15. Money from the university and other contracts has enabled the center to remain open, but without the grant, which makes up 75 percent of the center's $8.5 million annual budget, OSU has been forced to reduce operations.

George C. Smith

Since Jan. 1, a full-time work force of 200 has been reduced to 80 through layoffs and resignations.

Smith's ruling does not give grant money to OSU, but it requires the Department of Education to rebid the contract.
Center expects $2 million award

By Scott Bowman
Lantern staff writer

The Ohio State National Center for Research in Vocational Education is likely to receive $2 million from the federal government to keep the program alive.

Nancy Coffey, press secretary for Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said the money was included as part of the federal education bill at Metzenbaum’s request.

The bill has been approved by the Senate and will now go to the House of Representatives for vote. Coffey said she didn’t anticipate any problems.

Federal funding to the Ohio State center ended January 15 when the University of California at Berkeley was awarded the $30 million grant to start a national center for research in vocational education.

Since then, the Ohio State center has used money from its emergency fund to stay open.

Recently an agreement was worked out with Augustus Hawkins, chairman of the House Conference Committee, to permit both Ohio State and Berkeley to receive a total of $2 million each until the final contract deciding the location of the center can be worked out, Coffey said.

Ohio State’s attorney, Robert B. McAlistor, said that U.S. District Court Judge George C. Smith issued an opinion and order last Friday on the case.

Smith refused to revoke a previous injunction that allows Ohio State to keep the center until either the case is decided on appeal or a location for the center is named after the new award process takes place.

The U.S. Department of Education asked that the injunction be suspended so it could award the grant to Berkeley.

Smith issued the injunction March 15, ruling that the Department of Education acted illegally in awarding the five-year, $30 million grant to Berkeley in January.

Smith’s decision ordered that the center’s designation be revoked from Berkeley; that Berkeley’s grant application be returned as ineligible; and a new award process that complies with congressional laws be started.

Michael Morris, associate director of the center at Ohio State, said the $2 million could be used for work proposed in the center’s original application.

Morris said it is a possibility that some of the 50 people who have been laid-off could be rehired. Another 70 employees have resigned to take other jobs.
New federal funding may yet come to NCRVE

By David Tull

Some temporary financial relief may be on the way to Ohio State's National Center for Research in Vocational Education while the judicial process runs its deliberate course.

But federal action won't result in immediate rehiring of all the employees laid off at NCRVE, according to Ray D. Ryan Jr., executive director of the center.

Last week, at the urging of Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, a House-Senate conference committee for the federal education bill voted NCRVE $2 million to operate through 1988. Congress still must enact the bill into law. It could be late April or early May before funding is received.

The same bill gives $2 million to the University of California, Berkeley, which was selected by the U.S. Department of Education for the five-year, $30 million NCRVE grant previously held by Ohio State. Berkeley would have to divide its share among its consortium members.

The NCRVE grant is frozen until Ohio State's lawsuit against the department is resolved.

The $2 million federal interim grant reportedly runs through December. "That's about half of the regular NCRVE grant for that period," Ryan says.

"However, this money will allow us to maintain a critical mass of staff," he adds. The current staff of about 100 is essential to search for additional funded research, to carry out funded projects, and to keep an active core of personnel so that the center can compete for the national grant, Ryan explains.

Since the original NCRVE grant expired Jan. 15, funds to operate the center have come from other contracts and from University support.

After the education department chose Berkeley for the grant in January, Ohio State filed suit, claiming selection procedures departed from the law. U.S. District Court Judge George C. Smith ruled in Ohio State's favor March 15. On April 1, he also denied an education department request for a stay.

But officials of the Department of Education are preparing to appeal the ruling. The appeal process could take more than two months. If Smith's ruling is sustained, the grant process would begin again, probably with Ohio State and Berkeley again competing for the grant.

"We have not seen the language of the bill granting us the interim money," Ryan says. "We will have to look at it carefully to see what the money is for. We still must negotiate a scope of work with the department for that money."

The bill might mandate some rehiring, he says. However, staff rehired on that basis might have to be laid off again at the end of the funding period, he points out.

Meanwhile, the grant eases part of the financial pressure on both the University and NCRVE while legal remedies are pursued.

"We are particularly grateful to Senator Metzenbaum and to Congressman (Chalmers) Wylie, R-Columbus, and Congressman (Tom) Sawyer, D-Akron, who were key contributors to this provision in the education bill," Ryan says.
OSU may keep center after all

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Department of Education will seek new bids for a contract to run the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, in which The Ohio State University is interested, a department official said yesterday.

OSU, which has been the site of the national center, wanted the $30 million, six-year contract and filed suit when it went instead to the University of California at Berkeley.

The department this week voided its Berkeley contract, which was awarded in January, said Phillip Rosenfelt, associate general counsel for program services.

WHILE THE department will advertise for new bids, it still is seeking court approval of the Berkeley award, Rosenfelt said, and will reinstate the contract if the approval is obtained.

OSU, Berkeley's chief competitor for the contract, contends the award to Berkeley was done improperly.

New bids are necessary because U.S. District Judge George C. Smith and the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati rejected the department's request for a stay of Smith's March 15 order that directed the contract be rebid, Rosenfelt said.

HE SAID the appellate court would not delay implementation of the order while an appeal is pending.

In his ruling, Smith agreed that the Education Department used improper procedures in reviewing bids and awarding the contract for the center to Berkeley.

In the meantime, the status of federal grants for vocational education research remains unclear, Rosenfelt said.

An education bill cleared by a House-Senate conference committee would provide $2 million to OSU and a like sum to Berkeley to oversee and conduct federally sponsored research through Sept. 30.
OSU vocational money OK'd

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate yesterday approved a bill containing $2 million for the Ohio State University National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The money was included by House-Senate conferees in a federal education bill at the request of Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio. The bill passed the House on Tuesday and now goes to President Reagan for his signature.

OSU lost a $30 million, five-year contract for the center to the University of California at Berkeley in January.

The $2 million will help the center keep operating through September while a case challenging the award makes its way through federal courts.

OSU officials have said the money will end layoffs and might result in some laid-off employees being rehired at least temporarily.

On March 15, U.S. District Judge George C. Smith of Columbus ordered the Education Department to seek new bids on the contract. The agency is doing that while it appeals Smith's ruling in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Lawmakers also included $2 million for Berkeley to support activities related to vocational education research. That money was included at the insistence of California's congressional delegation.

Smith earlier this month cited the compromise agreement to provide the $2 million in denying the department's request for a stay of the court order.

Ohio State had run the national center for 10 years before losing the contract in January.
Center revives grant bidding

By Scott Bowman
Lantern staff writer

The U.S. Department of Education is planning a new round of competition for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, said Phillip Rosenfelt, associate general counsel for program services.

Rosenfelt said the department sent out a letter April 12 that voided its contract with the University of California at Berkeley.

Judge George C. Smith issued a court injunction on March 15, ordering Secretary of Education William Bennett to revoke the center's designation from Berkeley because the department acted illegally in granting the five-year, $30 million grant.

Smith also ordered that the grant application from Berkeley be returned as ineligible and a new award process be started.

The department requested a stay in Smith's decision and the 6th District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati rejected their request, Rosenfelt said.

Even though the Department of Education will call for new bids, it is still trying to obtain court approval of the Berkeley award. Rosenfelt said he is confident that the court will grant approval.

On Wednesday, the Education Reauthorization Bill, which grants Ohio State and Berkeley $2 million apiece, passed both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. The section of the bill dealing with the center was introduced by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

"If the Department of Education follows its own rules this time, I am confident Ohio State will regain the grant," Metzenbaum said. "It has the experience, the staff, the center and the best bid. Now it will also have the funds to keep it going."

Michael Morris, associate director for the Ohio State Center for Research in Vocational Education, said he believes that Ohio State's chances of retaining the center are excellent.

"We are the most qualified to perform the work," Morris said. "We will be resubmitting and feel that under an appropriate review under the confines of the law, we will get it."

When asked what changes Ohio State will make in their bid, if any, Morris said he could not comment.

"We hold that back for our competition to wonder," he said.

Morris said Ohio State will have to submit something defining what they have performed and what they plan to perform in the future.
OSU loses bout for vocational center

By Tim Doulin  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The Ohio State University has suffered a setback in its bid to retain the National Vocational Education Research Center.

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati Wednesday reversed an order of the U.S. District Court in Columbus.

The district court had enjoined the U.S. Department of Education from awarding a five-year, $30 million contract for the center to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley.

District Judge George C. Smith issued the injunction March 15 at the request of OSU, which had the two previous contracts and ran the center from 1978 through January.

THE CIRCUIT court decision permits the Department of Education to award the new grant to Berkeley. The department had said, after Smith's decision, that it would reopen the bidding process, but it has not done so, a spokesman said yesterday.

OSU officials plan to study the circuit court's decision before deciding whether to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Larry Thompson, special assistant to OSU President Edward H. Jennings.

On Jan. 4, the department, acting on the recommendation of a panel of experts, awarded the grant to Berkeley.

SMITH RULED the contract should be rebid because Berkeley's application failed to meet federal guidelines.

Berkeley's application said the center would be run by co-directors, but the law requires a single director. The statute also requires the department to fund a center associated with a university rather than a consortium.

The circuit court pointed out that almost all the deficiencies in Berkeley's application had been corrected and that Congress implicitly allows the grant to be dispersed among several institutions.

The court said the department's decision to award the grant to Berkeley was "based on permissible interpretations of the law."

OSU HAD received two consecutive five-year grants to operate the center, which conducts applied research on issues in vocational education and distributes information nationally.

The last OSU grant, which made up 75 percent of the center's annual $8.5 million budget, ended Jan. 15. Work has continued at the center, but a full-time work force of 200 has been reduced by more than half.

Thompson said the center will continue to operate at its current level at least through the rest of this year, due largely to $2 million received from the federal government in April.

The center is seeking other sources of funding, Thompson said.
Decision leaves OSU out of the money

WASHINGTON — The Education Department plans to reinstate a $30 million grant to the University of California at Berkeley for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday reversed Judge George C. Smith’s decision in U.S. District Court that barred the department from awarding the grant. Bonnie F. Guiton, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, said yesterday that the appeals court’s action clears the way for the department to reinstate Berkeley’s grant.

The Education Department, Berkeley and The Ohio State University have been embroiled in a conflict about who is to receive the five-year contract for the national center. OSU had the center for 10 years.

Berkeley gets funds

Vocational research grant awarded fairly, judge says

By Felicia Gersi

Ohio State lost the latest round in its fight for the five-year, $30 million grant for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati reversed a June 22 ruling by the U.S. District Court in Columbus, which ordered the Department of Education to begin a new selection process for the center.

The court’s decision, which reversed a lower court’s decision, found that the department acted illegally in awarding the contract to the University of California at Berkeley in January. It ordered the department to revoke the grant and begin a new selection process.

The circuit court reversal will permit the Department of Education to award the grant to Berkeley.

OSU officials will review the court decision in the next couple of weeks and decide what actions to take, said Herb Asher, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings.

Ohio State argued in the case that Berkeley’s proposal did not originally comply with the regulations established by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984, said John Winkler, attorney for Ohio State. The act requires that the center be associated with one university and one director, he said.

Berkeley’s original proposal listed co-directors and called for a consortium that listed five other institutions: University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, the Rand Corporation, Teachers College of Columbia University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Berkeley later revised its proposal to acknowledge one director and listed the other institutions.

We still feel we’re right. We’re waiting for the university to make a decision whether or not to pursue the case to a higher level.

John Winkler, attorney

as sub-contractors, Winkler said.

Although sub-contractors are permitted under the statute, Berkeley’s plan channels two-thirds of the grant funds to these other institutions, Winkler said. Ohio State argued that this proportion exceeded the amount intended by the law, he said.

The circuit court noted that the deficiencies in Berkeley’s original application had been corrected and that the statute allows the grant to be distributed among several institutions.

The Department of Education’s decision to award Berkeley the grant was upheld because it had been based on permissible interpretations of the law, the court said.

Winkler, a lawyer with the firm of Baker and Hostetler, said he is disappointed with the decision.

“We still feel we’re right,” he said. “We’re waiting for the university to make a decision whether or not to pursue the case to a higher level.”

The funding from the last OSU grant stopped January 15, but Ohio State has sufficient money to operate the center until the end of the year, Asher said. This is mostly a result of a $2 million grant issued by Congress in April, Asher said.

Ohio State, which has been operating the center since 1978, has been exploring other sources of funding for the center since the grant was awarded to Berkeley, he said.

The federal grant made up about 75 percent of the center’s operating budget, Asher said.

The center, which had a staff of about 200 in January, has reduced its staff by more than 50 percent, he said.

If Ohio State decides to appeal the circuit court decision, it would have to file a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court, Winkler said.

The Court would review the case and decide whether to hear it, based on interest in the issues and the court’s current case load, Winkler said.
OSU concedes fight for research center

By Felicia Gersi
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State is throwing in the towel in its fight for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

OSU officials decided Tuesday not to appeal the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a lower court's decision to award the five-year, $30 million grant to the University of California at Berkeley.

On June 22, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati reversed a March ruling that ordered the Department of Education to revoke the grant from Berkeley and begin a new selection process.

The circuit court ruled that the original selection process was valid and awarded the grant to a consortium headed by Berkeley.

LARRY R. THOMPSON, special assistant to President Edward H. Jennings, said the presidential staff based its decision not to appeal on two problems with the case.

First, after analyzing the case from a legal perspective, the staff decided that the chances were slim that the Supreme Court would grant a hearing, Thompson said.

The second issue considered was the time involved in the appeals process, he said.

The Supreme Court is out of session until the fall and university officials do not know whether the court would even hear the case until late fall, Thompson said. It could be a year or two before a decision is made he said.

"It would leave us in limbo for a very long period of time," Thompson said.

The National Center for Vocational Education was established at Ohio State nearly 25 years ago to study issues related to vocational education at the high school and higher levels.

The center is awarded contracts and grants from private industry, technical schools and various levels of government to provide information and develop training and evaluation programs.

Ohio State has been operating the national center through federal grant money since 1978.

Center officials have been analyzing current contracts and grants to step up efforts for proposed development, said Michael Morris, associate director of administrative services for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education.

"We've been working on this situation since back around the first of the year when it became evident (that the center could lose the grant)," he said. "This was always considered to be a possibility."

The center which employs approximately 100 people, has the stability to keep running through December 1988, Morris said.

After the first of the year, the center may need adjustments depending on the funding it receives, he said.

Morris said the center still has a number of contracts and grants in place and will continue to operate on them.

The national center was one of three long-term grants and constituted about 75 percent of the center's funding, he said. However, the center is continuously working on short-term contracts, he said.
OSU seeks new name, money for jilted center

The Ohio State University is seeking money and a name for its vocational educational research center because of the loss of a $30 million federal grant and the center's national designation.

"The center is more than the grant," said Michael Morris, associate director of administrative services. "We have a number of grants and contracts in place that will enable us to keep going."

The center was named the OSU National Center for Research in Vocational Education before it received federal grants. But because of the loss of the federal money, the center may be given a new name.

Plans are for the center to continue research on issues in vocational education and to distribute the information. To do so, it will need new financial resources.

OSU announced this week it will halt its court battle to obtain another five-year federal grant.

OSU took the U.S. Department of Education to court when the new grant was awarded to a six-member consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley. U.S. District Judge George C. Smith in Columbus held up the award temporarily, but on June 22 the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled in favor of the award to Berkeley.

Larry Thompson, special assistant to OSU President Edward H. Jennings, said the U.S. Supreme Court could not be expected to hear the case, and even if it did, a ruling probably would not come for at least a year.

Grants for the national center were awarded to OSU in 1978 and 1983. The grants comprised about 80 percent of the center's budget. Contracts and other grants will provide the OSU center with at least $2 million next year.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The National Center for Research in Vocational Education at Ohio State University will become a part of the College of Education this fall.

That decision was drafted in a recent meeting of NCRVE officials with Myles Brand, vice president for academic affairs and provost, and other university administrators. The transition from an autonomous unit to the academic college administration will take place by October, says Ray Ryan, executive director of NCRVE. Details for the transition are still to be worked out.

The change will mean "closer ties to the academic community on campus," Ryan says. "We've wanted this. It will be an opportunity for the center to work closely with a college that has a national reputation. The College of Education has experience in such fields as vocational education and employee training. And both the college and NCRVE have worked internationally."

The new affiliation will involve both research and teaching. Neither is a new role for NCRVE, Ryan points out. "We've taught over 100 classes here (at Ohio State) in the last five years."

NCRVE was established at Ohio State nearly 25 years ago to do research and training in vocational education.

The changeover resolves a half-year of negotiations and legal action triggered by loss of funds from a major federal contract.
The center has held a vocational education research grant from the U. S. Department of Education for the past 10 years. The department in January gave the contract to a group led by the University of California, Berkeley.

Efforts by Ohio State to reclaim the five-year, $30 million federal contract for NCRVE reached a dead end in early July when the university decided not to carry legal action to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ohio State earlier had filed suit in U.S. District Court, claiming that proper procedures were not followed in awarding the contract. In March, Judge George C. Smith upheld the university's contention and ordered the federal department to restart the process.

The department appealed to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. In June, the court ruled in favor of the U.S. Department of Education, overturning Smith's order. The appeals decision permitted the department to go ahead with the Berkeley contract.

The legal action, however, had one positive outcome for NCRVE. While the federal grant was tied up, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, sponsored a bill granting Berkeley and Ohio State interim funds of $2 million each to carry out research in vocational education.

NCRVE has "17 or 18 projects in the 'scope of work' approved by the department for those funds," Ryan says.

The $2 million grant ends Dec. 31, along with several other contracts from various federal, state and local agencies. NCRVE's present funding level of $4.3 million will be cut about in half after Dec. 31 unless additional contracts are obtained, Ryan says.

The search for funds is one of the center's top priorities.

"Our priorities right now are to make a smooth transition into the College of Education, to continue to maintain the high quality of research that we have in the past, to secure additional resources, and to assist our employees in this transition," Ryan adds.

At peak levels, NCRVE employed 200. It currently has about 115 staff members, including graduate students and part-time employees. Without new contracts, the expected level of funding after Jan. 1 will support about 40 people, Ryan says.

In the six months remaining, much of the attrition will be accomplished through normal retirements and staff members taking other jobs, he adds.

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Contact: Ray Ryan, (614) 486-3655.
Written by David Tull. (D/427)
OSU ends autonomy for center

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

With its budget crippled by the loss of a major federal grant, the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at Ohio State University will join the school's College of Education in the fall.

The decision was announced yesterday by the center and university administrators. "This is a chance, we hope, to work more closely with the university faculty in research and have them working with us in what we do," said Ray Ryan, executive director of the center.

Previously, the center was self-governing. It was the largest research center in the university.

THE CENTER held the title of national vocational education research center for the last 10 years, thanks largely to a five-year, $30 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

This year, the Education Department decided to give the grant to a group led by the University of California at Berkeley.

OSU challenged the decision in court, but the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the Education Department.

The grant provided $5 million of the center's annual $8.5 million budget. Without the grant, the center's budget is more in line with other research centers on campus.

The center's budget for this year is about $4.3 million. But Ryan expects to start 1989 with a budget of $2 million to $2.5 million.

To help boost the budget, the center is searching for more contracts and grants.

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL money, the center would have to trim its staff from 115 to about 40. Before losing the grant, the center employed about 200 people.

"We have been pretty successful in the past," Ryan said. "We hope to maintain that same kind of support to remain successful in the future."

The center has provided business and industrial training internationally while working with communities across the country where companies have laid off workers.

The center will try to maintain national and international ties built over the years, Ryan said. But under the new alliance, the center's work will focus on Ohio.

"We are going to take a harder look at how to work with colleges and universities in the state," Ryan said.

In addition to continuing research, the staff members at the center will be involved in classroom teaching.
Vocation center joins College of Education

By Felicia Gersi
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education will become a part of the College of Education effective Fall Quarter, said Ray Ryan, executive director for the center.

The center, which lost its designation as the national center in January, is currently an independent division of the university reporting to the provost.

At a July 14 meeting, officials from the center, the provost’s office, and the university made the initial plans to transfer the center to the College of Education by October, Ryan said.

The move will align the center with a highly regarded school and provide “more of an interface with the academic community,” he said.

Ohio State’s education program is rated one of the best in the country, Ryan said.

MYLES BRAND, vice president of academic affairs and provost, said the vocational center’s problems with federal funding caused the university to re-examine the center’s goals. He said the affiliation with the College of Education will make the center stronger.

“In order to (make the center stronger), we must associate it much more closely with an academic unit,” Brand said.

He said the university tries to maximize the interaction between researchers, students and faculty in all of the research centers on campus, such as the Byrd Polar Research Center and the Biotechnology Center.

Ryan said the College of Education already does some work in vocational education. To avoid duplicating efforts, officials from the center and the College of Education this week will look into functions that can be combined.

The vocational center, established at Ohio State nearly 25 years ago, studies issues related to vocational education and employee training. Its role as part of the College of Education will involve both teaching and research, Ryan said.

IN JANUARY the center lost a five-year, $30 million federal contract as well as the national center designation. The U.S. Department of Education awarded

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THE OHIO STATE LANTERN, Monday, July 25, 1988

the grant to a consortium headed by the University of California at Berkeley. The OSU center had held the grant since 1978.

Early this year, Ohio State filed a lawsuit claiming the Department of Education had used improper procedures in awarding the contract. In March, District Judge George Smith ordered the department to revoke the grant to Berkeley and begin a new selection process.

On June 22, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati overturned Smith’s decision, permitting the grant to go to Berkeley.

Ohio State decided not to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court because of the time involved and the low likelihood of the Court ever hearing the case.

The grant made up about 75 percent of the center’s funding. However, the center received a $2 million grant from the U.S. Congress that will keep the center operating until December.

THE CENTER, which last year employed about 200 people, now has a staff of 110, Ryan said. With the level of funding forecasted for next year at between $2 million to $2.5 million, the staff will need to be cut to 40 or 50, he said.

Ryan said the center has several bids out for additional contracts and that this additional funding will determine the 1989 staffing level. Any layoffs needed at the end of the year should be announced by Oct. 1, he said.

The center will try to provide placement assistance to its employees to find new jobs, Ryan said. The university will work closely with the center to help place employees in civil service positions.

Ryan said he thinks the number of layoffs will be small, as many of the center’s employees have been seeking other jobs since 50 employees were laid off in March.
Vocational Center's merge postponed

By Teresa Hackathorn
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education will not become part of the College of Education until Oct. 15, said Donald Anderson, dean of Education Administration.

The center was to become part of the department Saturday. "The extended deadline is not a delay in transition," Anderson said. "It will actually speed up the transition since it will be final on October 15." The original schedule called for a transitional period that would last through December, when a $2 million federal grant is expected to run out.

The fine details of the transition are still being worked out, Anderson said. "The center's staff proposal for reduction in force will be finalized on October 15, he said.

The center lost its national status in January. This loss of status was coupled with the loss of a grant that covered 75 percent of the center's costs.

A spokeswoman for the center said the transition to the education college will cause a shift in authority; the center is currently an independent division of the university.

"Instead of the authority coming from the provost it will come from the College of Education," she said.

Anderson said the center's new name will also be announced Oct. 15.

The vocational educational center, established at Ohio State nearly 25 years ago, conducts research on teaching, vocational education and employee training.

Aaron Miller, professor of education theory and practice, said he is looking forward to working with the center's staff.

"It's a chance to work with nationally and internationally known professionals who can bring their expertise to our staff," Miller said. "In the same sense our faculty can help the center."

Miller said the OSU faculty view the transition as a challenge. "Working together we may be able to tap more resources, he said."
Vocational education center tries to re-establish stability

Center’s staff, educational faculty will work together, pool resources

By Teresa Hackathorn
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education lost more than just money when it lost its national charter this year.

The center lost stability with the termination of the charter, said Ray Ryan, the center’s executive director. But the center has received several grants that will help bring it back.

“We want resources and commitments to put stability into the center,” he said. “We have received three grants with three-year contracts instead of the usual one-to-four-month projects.”

The long-term projects give the researcher flexibility and an assured job for an extended period of time. The short-term project researcher is not assured of funds for an extended period of time.

“It’s a difficult situation,” Ryan said. “It’s an emotional, physical and mental roller coaster.”

The center, which has been an extension of Ohio State for 25 years, became part of the OSU College of Education Oct. 15. Ohio State lost the national charter Jan. 1 to the University of California at Berkeley.

The CENTER does research on a wide variety of vocational training, said a spokeswoman for the OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education. The center organizes customized workshops and holds conferences, such as the audio conference it held with people from around the country concerning literacy in the workplace.

Other research includes work in career development, leadership development, surveys, reports and recommendations to name a few, she said.

Gilbert Jarvis, chairman of educational studies, said the merger will have a direct effect on students because the increase in faculty research will improve the quality of education.

It will also offer opportunities for graduate student research appointments, Ryan said.

“The center will be a significant home eventually for students who want to do intense research,” he said. “Now, we have seven to eight students working with the professors and staff, and hopefully that will increase.”

JARVIS SAID there is also a possibility that with the increased faculty research, paying jobs could be open to students.

Donald Anderson, dean of the College of Education, said the center will be renamed in about a week.

Although the center lost its national charter, it is still the largest vocational education center in the country, Ryan said.

“We’ve gone through a difficult time,” he said. “We’ve gone from a staff of 220 down to 60 in the last year and a half.

“Twenty-five more people received termination notices last week, effective Dec. 31,” he said.

RYAN SAID many of the civil service workers transferred to other openings on campus.

The center’s personnel office provided assistance in job placement to those whose jobs were terminated. Ryan said the majority those that left have gone to positions of promotion.

Even though the merger with the College of Education came about because of the loss of the federal charter, it has not been all bad.

“The federal grant being large, $6 million, directed our work,” Ryan said. “They (federal government) guided us. Without the grant we will be able to perhaps pursue more creative and forward-moving projects.”

Ryan said the center has been very aggressive and successful in seeking alternative funding sources.

HE SAID typically the center will bring in $1 million in outside funds through solicitation in a six month period. In the last six months, it has brought in $3.5 million.
Vocational center increases outside funding
Research facility triples dollars solicited in six-month period

By Teresa Hackathorn
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education has brought in three times the amount of outside research money in the last six months than it did in the same period of time when it was the national center.

"We don’t have time to wait around for things to happen," said Chester Hansen, senior associate director of the vocational education center. "Even though we continue to get national and international calls for projects, we are constantly writing and submitting proposals."

The center has had 31 proposals awarded in 1988 valued at more than $4.35 million and has an additional $5.9 million in proposals pending consideration by sponsor organizations, Hansen said.

Because of the center's assertive approach and solicitation of outside funds, it has brought in $3.5 million in the last six months as opposed to their usual $1 million in a six month period, said Ray Ryan Jr., executive director of the vocational education center.

Ryan attributes the increase in funds to the diversity of projects the center is able to research. He said the center has projects ranging from international to domestic topics and from industry to Welfare reform.

He said the center has been able to expand its research programs because one main entity no longer provides the majority of funds.

"The federal grant being large, $6 million, directed our work," Ryan said. "They (the federal government) guided us. Without the grant we will be able to perhaps pursue more creative and forward moving projects."

In 1976 the federal legislature established a national center for research in vocational education. In 1978 the OSU Center for Research in Vocational Education was awarded this grant.

The center maintained the grant that amounted to approximately $6 million a year until 1988.

The University of California at Berkeley was awarded the grant effective Jan. 1, 1989.

The center became part of the College of Education last month. For the past ten months, the center’s staff and the College of Education staff have been working on new strategies and proposals in response to the grant loss.

Hansen said the loss of the grant has changed the scope of the center's research.

"We’re working within a much broader arena than previously relied upon," he said. "It used to be education and labor related projects but now we’re into training and more."

The center has submitted prop...
Center finds new directions in work abroad

By Robert Boyce

The Center on Education and Training for Employment is undergoing a quiet revival, according to its executive director, Ray D. Ryan Jr.

Formerly known as the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, the center lost its five-year grant and federal funding to the University of California, Berkeley, in 1987.

"Today, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary with renewed growth and a more broader perspective than we have ever had," says Ryan, who has headed the center since December 1986.

"As a quasi-federal agency — because three-fourths of our funding was from the U.S. Department of Education — we were limited to domestic projects. Now we are working in eight or nine countries and much more with private businesses.

"We have connections with every state — either directly or in consortia. And we just signed an agreement putting us at the center of a global communication network, of which a U.S.S.R member is president. Ryan is vice president for the North American region.

"We hope that the network can be expanded to include the 16 similar centers around the world, such as the Hebrew University, the University of Michigan, along with Ohio State, and the two universities involved in the United States.

"He adds that he also would like to link businesses from Central Ohio to the network.

"Had we continued on the same basis as before, we probably would be more oriented toward secondary vocational education. Today that’s only half of our activity," he says.

"Now we’re working more with the private sector and have contracts with about 200 businesses. We are finishing up an 18-month project with General Electric in Mexico — it’s one of our biggest contracts.

"We’re not only surviving — we’re thriving. The changeover cut our annual business down from $8 million to under $1 million. Now we’re back up to $5 million.

"We’re more diversified and more expansive — doing business last year on all continents. We are involved in Mexico, Singapore, Poland, Turkey and Micronesia.

"We are helping set up entrepreneurship programs in Turkey and Poland, and assisting leaders in the Soviet Union in establishing a model community college system.

"Ryan says over 400 foreign visitors are at the center, studying how to teach entrepreneurship, leadership and management. There are 30 from the Dominican Republic, two from Germany, 16 from Turkey and 12 from the United Arab Emirates.

"Our library holds the world’s largest reference source on vocational and technical training — some 400,000 volumes.

People from all over the world come to Columbus just to work in our center."
Center pushes for OSU overseas growth

By Kristi Maines
Lantern staff writer

The Center on Education and Training for Employment at Ohio State is helping foreign countries improve their educational systems and business skills.

The center recently sent proposals to Turkey and China to help the governments improve the educational curriculum, and has been invited to visit the Soviet Union in early April to prepare for the opening of a Soviet-American school, said Ray Ryan, executive director for the center.

Ryan said the center works with various universities around the country to develop educational programs and recruit people to teach the programs in foreign countries.

The center recently applied for a $1.77 million loan from the World Bank and Turkey to change the Turkish educational system from kindergarten through eleventh grade. Ryan said. This includes improving the quality of education and changing how math, reading and writing are taught.

"This will raise the level of standards, which means they will be able to compete more efficiently in a European economy," Ryan said.

He also said a $2.5 million proposal to modify the educational curriculum and methods of teaching in China was sent to the Chinese government February 28.

The modification process would consist of fellowships, study tours and seminars to upgrade management and teaching skills, said Robert Norton, senior research specialist for the center.

Fellowships would consist of the placement of 134 people, selected by federal selection agencies in China, in various universities around the world, including the United States, Norton said.

New teaching methodologies, technical skills, teaching, leadership and management skills will be the primary focus of the fellowships, Norton said. The study tours and seminars would emphasize the same information but will be held in China.

He said 43 professors from American universities, including Ohio State, will be selected to teach the tours and seminars.

Ryan said the center is actively involved in helping China and other foreign countries develop better business skills to increase competitiveness in the business market.

The center has been invited to send four people to the Soviet Union in April to discuss the opening of the Soviet-American school and the possible creation of a Soviet-American commercial center for business and industry, said Chester Hansen, senior associate director for the center.

The possibility of joint ventures in certain branches of industry, including electronics and machinery, commerce and tourism will also be discussed, Hansen said.

"We are trying to establish a lasting relationship from the first Soviet-American seminar on vocational and technical education," Ryan said.

The creation of the Soviet-American school in the city of Tomsk will begin October 1, 1991.

Ryan said the center on Education and Training for Employment has been working with foreign countries, including Iraq, Chili, Poland and Japan, for 25 years.

"It is difficult to get into the international arena because you have to work at it," Ryan said. Ohio State has established a personal working relationship with the countries involved and has proven its effectiveness through its programs.

Hansen said he is pleased the university is taking such an active role in helping other countries, because the world economy can only improve if new developments in education are made.

"It is a global village and we should be participating in international activities," Hansen said.
OHIO STATE ASSISTING ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN EASTERN EUROPE

COLUMBUS -- Several Ohio State University faculty members are working to help Eastern Europe's transition to a free-market economy through instructional programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Faculty from Ohio State's colleges of Business and Agriculture will help train professors in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland to teach business, through a $1 million grant for management training and economics education.

The funds were given by AID to the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities, based at Ohio State.

Faculty and staff from Ohio State's College of Education will help design and deliver a program teaching small business owners in Poland the principles of a free market economy. The $1.3 million program, also funded by AID, is a partnership with the International Enterprise Academy at Ohio State's Center on Education and Training for Employment and the Economic Foundation of Poland's Solidarity trade union.

In addition, an agreement, signed this month by Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee and Michael Boni, Poland's minister of labor and social policy, will provide for long-term support of enterprise education for unemployed Poles who want to become self-employed business owners.

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SMALL BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The International Enterprise Academy at the Center for Education and Training for Employment at Ohio State will work with Solidarity's Economic Foundation in conducting a year-long training and curriculum design project at University Management Centers in Poznan, Rzeszow and Bialystok, Poland.

Cathy Ashmore, director of the academy, said a team of U.S. university-based business consultants will work with economics professors in Poland to determine what the Enterprise Institutes there should teach adult small business owners to enhance their success rates.

The small-business program will focus on developing competencies in management, marketing, finance, entrepreneurship and business advising. Ashmore said the outcomes are to produce three new entrepreneurial institutes in Poland, videotapes of successful Polish entrepreneurs, training for bankers and government officials, and an annual national conference.

The Solidarity Economic Foundation is dedicated to creating jobs and enabling the new market-driven economy to survive. The foundation and Ohio State have worked for a year to develop an entrepreneurship training program for the unemployed. The program sponsor is the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ashmore and her staff recently completed train-the-trainer workshops in Gdansk, Krakow and Poznan to enable trainers from 24 Polish cities to help the unemployed start new businesses. The program features new curricula to be used in an awareness course and an in-depth start-up course for new entrepreneurs. More workshops are being planned for Bialystok and Torun.

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OSU nurtures business in developing nations

By Ron Lietzke
Dispatch Business Reporter

The formation of business enterprises in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Bloc countries and other nations is getting a helping hand from a 12-person academy at Ohio State University.

Entrepreneurialism is being spread in Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania and South Africa through the International Entrepreneur Academy, which is part of the Center on Education and Training for Employment in OSU's College of Education.

Academy Director Catherine Ashmore said her group has attracted about $3.5 million in contracts — many through the U.S. government — to nurture business development in foreign economies.

Congress has earmarked funds based on the belief that empowering people to start businesses will strengthen democracy worldwide, she said, adding that it also establishes economic relationships between the United States and the developing economies.

Establishing free enterprise in the former communist European nations has been tough partly because many of the most successful "business people" tend to be unscrupulous marketeers. And nearly all the would-be entrepreneurs are unfamiliar with the principles of a market economy.

Operating in Poland since 1990 in affiliation with the Solidarity Economic Foundation, the academy has helped train more than 5,000 people on the basics of running a business.

Ashmore said nearly all have started business, mostly small retail and wholesale enterprises.

"This is a grass-roots operation," she said. "Retailing has grown very fast and the wholesaling concept is growing."

However, she said building a market economy has been slow in other areas. Development of an infrastructure and networks for distribution, manufacturing and trucking are in their infancy.

Part of the program involves teaching the basics of business by translating the academy's materials into Polish and teaching people how to set up training classes.

Solidarity and the academy also has established institutes at three Polish universities to train the faculty how to teach business topics. In addition, 21 business incubators are being set up in the country to help business ventures get started.

The academy is supplying technical advisers to South Africa, where a Youth Enterprise Society is being formed in the black homeland of Qwaqwa to teach business principals to teenagers after school.

In Hungary, instructors are being trained to teach the unemployed how to start their own businesses.

Several students have been brought to Columbus through the academy for training and more than 20 Russians are visiting to get a first-hand look at American-style business, Ashmore said.
Russian students take on more than studies

By Cheryl R. Hoot
Latern staff writer

On short notice, he quickly signed up and prepared for a test that could change the course of his career. His grandfather said not to worry about the money; he would take care of the finances.

His family would not let him pass up the chance to study in the United States.

Not long after that, Geraschenko was on an airplane from Russia bound for Ohio State as part of the Russian-American Program for Improvement of Education-Commerce. He is part of the first student and administrative exchange between Ohio State and the former Soviet Union.

The Russian-American program started in 1990 after an agreement between the OSU Center on Education and Training for Employment and the Russian Academy for Pedagogical Sciences to have staff and information exchanges. The goal of the program is to create an adequately trained work force for any joint business ventures between Ohio State and Russia.

After two symposiums on professional and vocational education, the first of seven exchanges took place. Nineteen students from the Tomsk Polytechnic University in central Siberia arrived for a three-week stay at Ohio State on Nov. 7.

Three objectives of the program are business management training, English as a second language, and career planning and development. During the study tour, students got a good look at American business practices and an overall view of American academia, said Chet Hanson, director of the program.

Class time was spent working on business basics and constructing an individual business plan according to Sergei Geraschenko, a second-year student from Tomsk.

Each student was to create a whole company, including the product, means of production, management and budget. As classes wound down, the students had to defend their plans in front of their teachers and classmates, he said.

To supplement classroom instruction, the Russian students also visited and toured area businesses such as Ashland Oil, Jefferson Industries, General Electric Super abrasives and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Hanson said.

Geraschenko said that American academics are different from those in Russia. "Classrooms and teachers are much more relaxed and informal here, but we study many of the same things," he said. "And Ohio State is huge. I've never been to such a place!"

Another visiting Russian student, Tanya Prokopyeva, commented that the system of picking a major area of study is different also.

The first two years, the students study English intensively. The following two years are spent studying an area of specialization. For Prokopyeva, it is computer science. Geraschenko is studying finance and banking.

One other thing may separate Russian and American universities. Russians regularly use college to dodge the draft.

If Russian males do not attend college, then it is mandatory to enter the military, Geraschenko said. "Many attend college just to avoid military service, not because they are interested in higher education," he said.

Another part of the student's learning experience was having an English conversation partner, said Diane Neman of the Spoken English Program. One or two students were paired with a volunteer from Ohio State, and then they could learn everyday spoken English and improve their conversational skills, she said.

Prokopyeva and Geraschenko both spoke highly of their conversational partner. Apparently, she took them to see a little bit of the city. The trip included dinner at One Nation restaurant and festivities afterwards at the High Beck in German Village.

"There is nothing like the bar or restaurant in Russia," Geraschenko said. "Everything is more like McDonald's and if you want to drink, you go buy a bottle of vodka and take it home."

Both Prokopyeva and Geraschenko were surprised at how noisy the bar was and how much people were drinking, although they provided good people-watching entertainment.

After experiencing some different American lifestyle, both Russians agreed on what they liked and did not like.

"The people are so friendly and polite," Prokopyeva said. "They always say 'please' and thank you, and 'excuse me' if they brush against you. Russians do not do that."

Geraschenko added that American food is different, too. "We really like hamburgers, but much of your food is so sweet," he said. "Everything, even bread, has a lot of sugar in it."

Both agreed that they did not like the fact that they could not walk everywhere, and were amazed that everyone owned a car. "At home, we can walk anywhere we need to go. It's strange to see everyone driving empty cars — only one person per car?" Geraschenko questioned.

However, vehicles allowed the Russian students to do a little bit of sightseeing while they were here.

Students visited Niagara Falls, spent a weekend with an American host family and went to a Columbus Chill hockey game.

"We ran out of film in Niagara Falls," Prokopyeva said. "I've never seen anything like it. It was beautiful."

The Russians also visited Philadelphia and New York City before leaving for Moscow from Washington on Nov. 28.