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Student organizations tighten fiscal belts

by Rex Henderson

Student organizations are bracing for a lean year after the Board of Regents' decision to hold down student fees.

The regents' refusal to approve a 34 percent increase cut the student organizations fund to \$183,960, down 43 percent from the proposed 1977-78 budget, and down 33 percent from last year's \$199,300 budget.

Student fees next year will be \$36.50 a semester, up from \$33 last year. The Regents approved the \$3.50 increase last November to finance the East Campus Union debt.

Dr. Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the student organizations fund took the budget cut because other student fee-financed services, such as the Health Center and the Nebraska Union, are taking a bigger share of the student fees pie this year.

Larger Health Center and Nebraska Union budgets are the result of inflation and 5.5 percent salary increases mandated by the state legislature.

The biggest losers in the student-fee redistribution are the Gay Action Group, the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group (NUPIRG), the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Women's Resource Center, the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (ASUN), and Student Legal Services.

The Gay Action Group, which drew strong criticism from the Board of Regents regarding its use of student fees, was dropped from the new FAB appropriations list.

FAB member Rick Drucker said he thought the Gay Action Group should be funded, but it was dropped for "political reasons."

The regents would never consider a student fee increase while the Gay Action Group was being funded, Drucker explained.

Tim Francis, a Gay Action Group board of directors member, said the loss of student fees money might force the Gay Rap Line to close.

Francis said the Gay Action group is self-supporting, but student fees paid for about half of the rap line, which cost about \$1,000 a year to operate.

"The loss is really going to affect the student body," Francis said. He estimated that there are about 2,000 homosexuals on campus.

Francis responded to the regents' opposition to the student fee-funding for the Gay Action Group.

"They are ignorant," Francis said. "They don't realize what they are denying the students." The Gay Rap Line helped solve students' problems with homosexuality, he said.

The FAB also cut the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) from the budget. In the FAB's original recommendation for 1977-78, CAC received \$23,500.

CAC coordinator Ron Bowlin said the cut will have no effect on this year's programs, but would cut programming for the 1978-79 school year in half.

Last year CAC brought the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet, violinist Isaac Stern and the Czech State Orchestra to campus.

Bowlin said that good performers usually require a financial commitment a year in advance. Rather than reduce the quality of the performances on campus, he said the CAC would reduce the number.

Because of the loss of student fees money, the CAC could also lose \$10,000-\$15,000 in federal and state matching grants.

Women's Resource Center director Sandin Garner said the cut in the center's budget has sent them hunting for new sources of money.

The center's appropriation was cut by 71 percent, from \$3,497 to \$1,000.

The center, which provides referral services for women with health, personal and academic problems, and a library on women's issues, will cut its staff from four work-study employees to just one, Garner said.

She said she will ask the legislature's Appropriations Committee to include the center in next year's UNL appropriation.

"For this year we will just be broke," Garner said.

NUPIRG will also be cutting back on staff and programs, according to president Don Macke.

NUPIRG received no money for next year. Last year it received \$4,000 as "seed money" to begin programs dealing with legislative research and lobbying, the problems of students living on financial aid, and consumer information.

Most of those programs will be only half completed, Macke said. Several seminars planned for next year will also be abandoned, he said.

As a result of the uncertainty over the past six months about how much NUPIRG would get from the student fees, the organization also lost \$480 in a grant from the Lincoln Action Program, Macke said.

ASUN President Greg Johnson said the impact of the 40 percent cut in the ASUN budget would be "pretty heavy."

"It's going to be pretty hard to realize some of our goals," Johnson said.

An evaluation of faculty members teaching ability is one of the projects Johnson said ASUN would have to drop.

Normally, Johnson explained, the student government could be run on the \$32,160 appropriated by FAB.

But the ASUN budget also supports the Student Legal Services Center. Johnson said he hopes to "limp through" with both the legal services and the student government.

Dave Rasmussen, Student Legal Services attorney, said the office would have to do with just one part-time secretary. Two clerks and another part-time secretary were cut from the staff, he said.

The budgets for advertising and for printing pamphlets were also cut.

"One attorney can do a lot more with a legal assistant," Rasmussen said. "I have to do my own routine stuff, like interviewing and telephoning."

Shari Patrick, president of the City Campus Union Program Council, said she is unsure how the cut will affect the Union Program Council (UPC).

FAB cut the UPC allocation from \$58,000 to \$55,000. It was the smallest percentage cut of any organization in the student activities fund.

"It is not going to kill us," Patrick said, "but we are going to have to cut some programs."

The East Campus UPC and the City UPC will meet in the fall to decide how the budget reduction will be divided, Patrick said.

The total budget, including other sources, for the East Campus UPC was \$22,012. At city campus the budget totaled \$84,182.

Sunrise radio station dawns at last after three-year wait for permit

After a three-year wait, the Federal Communications Commission has granted the Sunrise Communications Corp. a construction permit for an educational radio station in Lincoln.

Sunrise is a non-profit cooperative that was organized in 1974 to build a community-access radio station.

The station's programming will consist of non-commercial, original music of all kinds: country, rock, folk, jazz, classical and ethnic music from all over the world, according to Sunrise board of directors member Ron Kurtenbach.

"We want to offer the most free forum in Lincoln," Kurtenbach said.

He said that the station's air time would be open to anyone in Lincoln who would like to express an opinion.

"We'll accept the Young Americans for Freedom, Marxists, fascists, racists, feminists, anybody at all," Kurtenbach said.

He said that Sunrise hoped to have a news department to produce documentaries on national and local problems.

Kurtenbach said Sunrise has been fighting some local businessmen and WOWT television in Omaha to get the license.

WOWT contested the Sunrise license because they claimed the Sunrise station, at 89.5 megahertz, would interfere with the WOWT audio signal at 87.75 megahertz. Sunrise argued that KOLN-TV in Lincoln carries the same network programming and has a Lincoln news bureau.

The Sunrise radio station has run into other kinds of opposition, Kurtenbach said.

The downtown YMCA canceled an agreement to allow the Sunrise broadcast tower on the YMCA roof, Kurtenbach said, because they learned the persons connected with the *Lincoln Gazette* were also connected with Sunrise.

The Sunrise station will broadcast no advertising, Kurtenbach said. Instead it will rely on contributions from the listeners to support the station.

Sunrise has \$4,000 to build the transmitter and buy studio equipment. They are planning a fund raising drive to purchase better equipment, Kurtenbach said.

Sunrise is also planning a "name the station" contest to choose the call letters.

The contest winner will receive a lifetime subscription to the Sunrise program guide, a Sunrise T-shirt, a gift certificate for a record at Dirt Cheap, and a letter of sincere thanks, Kurtenbach said.

Entries for the call letter contest must begin with a "K", followed by three letters that don't duplicate an existing station.

Kurtenbach said he hoped the station would be on the air within six months.

He emphasized that donations of time and effort from technicians, reporters, musicians, and program producers, as well as money, are welcome.

A series of meetings will be held in the Sunrise studio at 2635 Randolph St. beginning Saturday, July 23.



Photo by Miles Tommerason

Is this your bike? It could be, as Sergeant Marvin Kinion and Officer Barb McGill lock up 14 stolen bikes at campus police headquarters. If not claimed within six months they will be publicly auctioned off. On the average these bikes sell for about \$15.