

Fare increase reduces travel

By Kathryn Haugstatter

Although the NU Central Administration began reducing out-of-state travel last summer, an air fare increase scheduled for Jan. 1, 1980 will further reduce travel, the director of public affairs said Friday.

Jim Raglin said word was sent out earlier this year to reduce travel whenever possible. The new increases mean further cutbacks, he said.

Air fares are set to increase at the beginning of the year, some as much as 15 percent. A bulletin sent to NU employees urges them to make early reservations to get better rates.

Robert Lovitt, assistant vice-chancellor for business and finance, said each department at UNL allots a certain amount for travel. The operating budget hasn't had an inflationary increase in two years, he said, so fewer trips can be taken.

"Travel is important to our faculty in terms of scholarly and professional activities," said Ned Hedges, vice-chancellor for academic affairs. "If travel is reduced, then the possibility of those kinds of communications and associations with fellow researchers would be reduced," he said.

Hedges said it is not likely the operating budget available for travel will be increased, so the increase in fares will reduce the amount of travel.

Raglin said people must think seriously about the advantages they receive from their meetings.

"Some meetings are exciting, informative and stimulating, but some engage more in social dialogue," he said. "I would hope these are the ones being cut."

Raglin said priority should be given to meetings which enhance job effectiveness.

"It comes down to what do you bring back, can it be transferred to benefits for your students or the university?" he said.

Raglin said the central administration's budget for travel in 1977-78 was \$70,218, but \$49,011 was actually spent.

In 1978-79 the Computer Network was added to the central administration's budget. This includes employees on all three campuses. The budget for travel was \$89,494. The total amount spent was \$53,557.

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