

Where Are We Going ... With What They Gave Us? The Budget Cut: What It Means

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of depth articles by Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer Mike MacLean dealing with the University of Nebraska budget processes.

By Mike MacLean The University of Nebraska budget is the subject of much comment. This is especially true this year because the University received only half of their requested increase for the 1961-63 biennium due to Legislative action.

Breckenridge

Dr. Adam Breckenridge, dean of Faculty, was interviewed and made the following statements: "The fact that the University did not receive the requested budget caused many members of the faculty to wonder whether the University of Nebraska can maintain its position and be strengthened," he said.

Salary Adjustment "Although it is hard to predict, the fact that we will have no funds for salary adjustment is bound to have adversities. Other universities will be aware of this fact and so will the faculty members," he added.

"We are always trying to improve the situation," said Breckenridge. "but it is difficult to convince prospective staff members to come to the University without evidence that it is being strengthened. We must tell the truth of course, and you just can't stretch these dollars. These prospective faculty members are bound to ask.

we have only been able to fill on a temporary basis may be partially a result of the budget, but it is hard to measure," he stated.

We have difficulty filling them with quality people because prospective faculty members may not feel that Nebraska is going to give the University the support that is essential, (from speech made at Grand Island.)

On the subject of the budget, Breckenridge said, "we based our presentation and our material on the assumption that the state was growing, its population was growing and would continue to grow, that its economy would grow and had to grow, that the interest, indeed the demand by the people for more and extensive education would put heavy pressures upon the institution for the immediate years ahead.

"As new requirements hit us, we revise our programs wherever possible, including new and needed activities within our existing authorization—we do this continuously, not each two years.

"The competition for staff for the colleges and universities of this nation is nationwide and knows no state or local boundaries.

Tight, Strong "Our planning resulted in a budget which was tight and strong. We presented information to the Legislature on the entire operation, in more ways than at any time previously, and the figures always totaled the same, there were no hidden factors," he said.

"We prepared information and presented it by college, by agency, by individual department, and by categories of personnel. We had details on the individual assignments and duties and responsibilities of every faculty member.

"We cannot remain static, we must go forward or backward, there is no standing still.

"I cannot speak for the members of the Budget Committee or the members of the Legislature, but I can conclude but one thing: They simply did not agree with us. Their considered judgment was that the University could do the things they considered essential with less money than had been requested. This was wholly within their province to do," he added.

"We are all dedicated to do just that: Do the maximum best effort within the funds made available to the University.

Staff Salaries "The University did, as it stated it would do and as the Board of Regents directed it to, put all possible support in-



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to staff salaries. The heart of the institution is in a strong and effectively supported staff. We had presented data to the Budget Committee, most of it prepared by others than ourselves and not disputable, that staff salaries in the great plains and north central states were well above those at Nebraska.

"This data showed that the states of the great plains and north central region had given and were going to give

greater support to institutions of our type than Nebraska was providing. These were facts, not our opinion, not our judgments," Breckenridge explained.

"We have not yet obtained the tabulations of other institutions in the great plains and north central states. We do not know precisely how we stack up in the scheme of things, but we do know some of them.

"I know that Missouri, the only really comparable institution adjacent to us has staff salaries in the senior staffs which are 10% and more above ours for this year.

"Less Well Off" "I hazard the statement that we are just a little less well off than we were a year ago by comparison. And since we shall have no additional funds for next year—we were directed to split the state tax appropriation even for each of the two years—we can only speculate what other states will do which have annual legislative sessions.

"We are confident of the future," Breckenridge commented, notwithstanding the disappointments I have mentioned.

"We strive for a higher and higher quality of instruction and performance. We hope for a stronger research program than heretofore known, for without it we stagnate to bleed the work of others. We want to give the people the kind of public services they expect us to provide them."

Beggs

Walter K. Beggs, dean of Teachers College, said that there are two main projects and one expansion area which will be set back due to the cut in the University budget.

Teaching Media The College was developing a "Materials Development Laboratory" which would help the faculty in the College and students know what was going on in the teaching media. Expansion was planned, but now it has to stay in its "semi-embryo stage," said Dean Beggs.

A second project the College was planning was an experimental classroom which would contain every conceivable device used in the teaching media. A program experimenting with the closed circuit TV in reference to observation in University high school was also planned within this program. This whole project is also remaining in the planning stage.

In the area of faculty expansion for broadening services, Teachers College requested three additional people which it didn't receive.

Dean Beggs explained that "because of budgetary limitations, we are training virtually no public school librarians at this institution."

"Teachers College was able to absorb an increase of 100 students this year with the current staff, but we can't do it indefinitely," he commented.

Tight Area "One area in the faculty expansion which will be tight is the supervision at University high school. With the increased enrollment, more supervision will be required and we received only 2-3rds of what we asked for by increase.

Dean Beggs said that the budget cut was a critical thing because "we are trying to build a strong, vigorous, and young faculty. We get the strongest we can get at the assistant professor level and some full professors.

"We are in excellent shape, but the shortage of college teachers presents a vigorous competition.

"The average full professional salary is between \$10,000 and \$11,000 which is just on the lower safety level of our competitive institutions, added Dean Beggs.

"College teaching is one of the most competitive of the professions," he said. "I think the students and people of the state should realize that the situation is critical.

Excellent Faculty "We have an excellent faculty in the College, but it is the responsibility of the Administration to keep and add

to it. He cited losing two department chairmen and an important faculty person to Pennsylvania State University and one department chairman to private industry, within the last two years.

One professor, teaching in a lab science department, wishing to remain anonymous, stated that his department "has allotted to it funds for teaching and conducting research on the same operating budget that it had in 1947. Meanwhile, the cost of the materials and apparatus that we use has risen 150%."

"The science departments have to look to Federal agencies for aid for research funds and facilities, since these things generally cannot be pro-

vided for in the operating budget," he said. "In some of the research that we are conducting, one piece of equipment would absorb the entire operating budget of this department."

"I am very much in sympathy with the Administration, for it has been put in the position of using most of the appropriation for salaries, which are and have been so critical, rather than for increasing operating budgets.

Better Teaching "For a better job of teaching in lab sciences, he added, it is necessary to add to and replace antiquated teaching equipment. We frequently have to use research equipment obtained from Federal grants for teaching at the graduate level."

"The type, kind and magnitude of research would be limited if we had to depend on the operating budget; thus we turn to outside help for this aid," he said.

"As far as salaries are concerned, the science departments are extremely competitive for staff members. The only way we can hope to retain the younger and eager faculty members, and the older established ones is with stipends commensurate with their abilities and at a level competitive with other well known universities," he concluded.

Meierhenry Dr. Wesley C. Meierhenry, head of the placement department in Teachers College, said that the implications involved

are increasing, the processing cost is allotted the same number of dollars and the increased work load are causing the office to decrease the number of personnel letters and phone calls they make for the students," he said.

Dr. Meierhenry said that for the past thirty years, his office has had about 100,000 teachers to place. In 1951 they processed 3,000 vacancies and in 1961, they processed 25,000 vacancies.

"There has been no change in the fee charge to students for this service, but the department did not receive any additional funds for this year or next.

"The University services are gradually lessened," he added.

He cited the California State colleges as an example in the rise in faculty salary increases. "Right now college teachers in California receive a \$500 increase in salary for every year they are there, and this spring, their legislature will probably increase this amount another \$500 bringing the total to \$1,000.

"Nebraska is standing still while others move \$1,000 beyond us.

"This is characteristic of colleges and universities around the country. The salary scales are up five per cent a year. Part of this increase is due to the cost of living, but part is also due to having the salaries equal the cost of training and responsibility which will hold the kind of people necessary.

Competition "One of the reasons for the competition in getting teachers is the fact the supply of new teachers with doctor's degrees has decreased from 40.5 per cent in 1953-54 to 25.3 per cent in 1960-61," said Dr. Meierhenry.

He added that there was no increase in the summer pay.

Holtzclaw Henry Holtzclaw, a chemistry professor, commented, "most of us are quite concerned with this matter. In order to hold a staff you must have salary increases, and the legislature blocked this off for the second year of the present biennium."

"This is definitely going to be quite a problem," Holtzclaw added, "Some of the staff members who have opportunities to go elsewhere are go-

ing to go. It is unfortunate for the University to be held back this way."

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so much money," Holtzclaw said.

Outside Sources "We are working quite hard on obtaining a nuclear magnetic resonance machine from outside sources. We desperately need this machine; most schools our size already have at least one of them," he said.

Ottoson Professor Howard W. Ottoson, chairman of the Agricultural Economics department, cited the retirement program as a boost to the faculty.

"Funding of the retirement program is a real step forward; there is a good feeling on the staff about this," he said.

"My department did not get any increases for graduate research assistants or operating expenses in the teaching program. We did get a small increase in the operating expenses on research," he said.

Small Increase Ottoson added that they also got a small increase in salaries, but most of these increases go into faculty contributions to the retirement program.

The net effect is that it is an increase in salary but not in take home pay, he said.

"In one of the resignations we had last year, it will take

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a 20 per cent increase in funds to replace the man. This will have to come out of the part-time budget," Ottoson said.

"In this biennium's budget, we have had to throw the weight toward salaries, the retirement fund and the filling of vacancies; this means a contraction in the operating program, with the obvious effects," he said.

Ottoson stated that they were trying to develop a PhD program, which was approved 4 years ago. "Obviously a contraction in the operating funds will slow down the growth of the program," he said.

When asked about the future, Ottoson replied, "the number of students going to college in Nebraska and all over the country is going to increase dramatically in the next 10 years. Competition for competent college instructors is going to become much keener. The University is going to have to meet this competition if it is to maintain the good staff that it has."

Still speaking of the future, he concluded, "Nebraska is a great University and it has a good staff. The University cannot stand still, it must either go forward or backward. If the citizens of Nebraska wish to keep their University great, it will mean budget increases in these coming years."

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State Historical Society Microfilms Nebraska History as Press Prints It

By Nancy Whitford

Preserving Nebraska's history is a never-ending job for employees at the State Historical Society. Much of this history is recorded on microfilm from the newspapers of the state. is made of the newspaper before the filming process begins, said Mrs. Mildred Kohler, film technician.

A list of the missing issues is sent to the present publisher, and he is asked to completed the file if possible.

"In general we have good cooperation with the back issues, but many times we get no reply," Mrs. Kohler said.

Newspapers "People often don't realize that their newspapers will be returned when we are through with them," she explained.

Often the newspapers are even returned in better shape than when they arrived. Mrs. Opal Jacobsen uses an iron and tape to smooth out and repair damages copies.

During the filming process, each page is placed on a table-like desk beneath a camera with a 100 foot, 35 millimeter reel. Two pages can be done at once if a tabloid is being filmed. Otherwise, the process proceeds one page at a time.

As the pages are filmed, a record is kept of the dates of the newspapers which are photographed. Mention is also made of any mutilations on the pages.

Chicago Then the film is sent to Chicago to be developed, and returned as a negative. Mrs. Kohler said the Historical Society would prefer to buy "positives" in case of damage to the negative, but lacks the money. As soon as the negatives are returned, they are made available to the pub-



FACTS ON FILM

A flip of the dials and another page of Nebraska's history is recorded by Mrs. Mildred Kohler, microfilm technician. An employee of the State Historical Society, she is responsible for filming copies of the state's newspapers to be preserved in the Nebraska archives.

lic, but the checking process continues.

Mrs. Kohler and Mrs. Grace Ton Velle read all of the negatives on the microfilm reader in order to determine if any have been blurred or skipped. The newspapers are re-filmed and spliced where necessary, and are ready for anyone who wishes to examine them.

There are some 250 current newspapers which are received and are in the process of being micro-filmed, and numerous other newspapers which no longer exist, said Mrs. Kohler.

Filed All of these newspapers are given a call number after they are microfilmed, and are filed in boxes according to towns. This record is typed for a permanent file and reported to the Library of Congress in Washington.

"We don't ever expect to be finished. We began filming in 1951 and with a few exceptions are only in the D's now," said Mrs. Kohler.

Mrs. Kohler said the oldest newspaper on file is a July, 1854 issue of the "Bellyue Palladium." Other early copies are of the "Brownville Advertiser" and the "Nebraska City News."

Many special editions such as the news of Pearl Harbor and centennial celebrations are also found.

The newspaper room, at the west end of which is located the second floor of the Historical Society, contains three microfilm reading machines (plus a fourth machine in another room) and several shelves of current newspapers from throughout the state.

Students are welcome to use the newspaper files, Mrs. Kohler said.

Nebraskan = Scrip

A joint effort by the members of the Daily Nebraskan and the Scrip literary magazine to bring student literary works into print appears on Pages 2 and 3.

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