

## Tearful, but with resolution Soshnik quits as President

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by Staff Writer

After two years, four months and 13 days of endless work and pressure, Joseph Soshnik called it quits Saturday as the president of the Lincoln campuses and outstate activities.

Few students were present Saturday at the Board of Regents meeting to hear Soshnik announce he was leaving his \$35,500 a year job as President sometime this summer to become a vice-president for an Omaha investment banking firm. But most likely, the Nebraska Union conference room would have been packed if students would have known what was to take place.

Saturday's drama began to unfold in an unusual 8 a. m. session called by Soshnik and attended by over 100 administrators, faculty members and students.

"I have an apology to make," he told the group in

the auditorium of Love Memorial Library. He stopped once more to regain his composure. "I apologize again."

Tears began to appear in the audience as Soshnik, choked with emotion, read his letter of resignation.

Although the turnover rate of college presidents in America is phenomenal, Soshnik's resignation left the University community stunned and asking: Why?

"It wasn't an impetuous decision," Soshnik said of his acceptance of a position with Kirkpatrick, Pettis, Smith, Polian, Inc., one of the state's largest investment banking firms. "I have felt for a good while that there would come a time when I would choose to pursue private satisfactions and forego the public satisfactions of the campus presidency."

He called his resignation a "personal decision based on career choice" that went back many months. Given the same

opportunity now offered by the investment firm, "the odds are overwhelming that the decision would have been the same a year ago or next year," he admitted.

He said he had desired a career in investment banking since his graduation from Creighton University in 1941. "That field still has very great appeal at age 51 and I have concluded that the decision must be made now so I can make a contribution to the organization I am joining," he said.

Although Soshnik noted he has felt for some time that his "service as President should not be continued for a long period," he admitted the decision to leave the University was made with "the greatest difficulty."

While talking to reporters, Soshnik emphasized that recent events such as last spring's anti-war protests on campus and the prospects of a restricted budget were not

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## University may get increase over Exon recommendations

University officials and students have apparently cracked the ice, if only slightly, in the drive to increase the Gov. J. J. Exon's University of Nebraska budget.

The Daily Nebraskan learned Sunday from legislative sources that a majority of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee now favors adding general fund monies to Exon's original request for the University.

No one will speculate how much the committee will recommend in added funds. Estimates start at about \$1 million and generally fall short of the approximately \$8 million addition requested by Chancellor D. B. Varner in the two budget hearings last week.

SEN RICHARD MARVEL, chairman of the committee, has agreed to introduce the governor's budget bill, probably sometime this week. The Appropriations Committee will suggest amendments to that bill.

In an attempt to compromise on the budget controversy, Varner and the Board of Regents have agreed with Exon's suggestion that they meet privately with the governor and legislative officials to resolve "legitimate differences" on the budget.

The Regents had been scheduled to consider Saturday a list of programs University officials said may have to be cut back or eliminated if the University is to operate within Exon's budget recommendations. But the Board, heeding Varner's advice, deferred any decision on retrenchments until after a resolution on the budget is reached.

THE CHANCELLOR said he was "hopeful and somewhat optimistic" that the University's request for \$8 million more than Exon had recommended might receive favorable action from the Appropriations Committee.

The governor has called for a cut of \$17.5 million in the original NU request for \$94.7 million in operating funds for the 1971-72 fiscal year.

Although disagreeing with Exon's conclusions, Varner said he found the governor's attitude on the University budget situation "open and straightforward."

University officials had not intended that the list of possible cutbacks be made public, Varner said, adding that he concurs with the governor's dismay that the list was released

to an Omaha newspaper.

BOARD REGENT PRESIDENT Robert Raun of Minden asked if it was urgent that a decision be made Saturday on plans for summer school this year. Varner replied a decision could wait until the April Regents meeting.

Reductions in the summer school program was one of the items on the University's list of possible cutbacks.

Exon, in a letter delivered to the Appropriations Committee, said his administration has provided the University with detailed cost reduction proposals that "cut what we consider administrative and other fat."

He called some of the proposals on the University's list of possible cutbacks as "quite shocking." Among the items Exon considered "shocking" were: "elimination of high school senior orientation, cancellation of an annual home economics conference on the Lincoln campus, restricting the use of the State Museum, restriction of summer school programs, elimination of the Bureau of Business Research and many others that are supposedly under consideration, including delays in opening the new Engineering and ETV buildings."

THE EXON letter Friday praised Varner's offer to have a management study of the University made by a consulting firm, an idea Exon said he had proposed a month ago. The governor said he and Varner also agree that a coordinating board for higher education in Nebraska is "a must."

"We were impressed with the Chancellor's continuing exemplary attitude, for which we have complimented him from the very beginning of our budget discussions, of our jointly keeping the lines of communication open," the letter remarked.

Exon challenged the University to "come forward and spell out why they cannot live within our proposals."

Varner last Thursday announced a compromise which would place NU funding at the mid-point of the Big Eight. However, on Friday Exon said no "magical Big Eight averages" should be considered "until, and only until, we have all convinced ourselves that there is no further reasonable cost cutting approaches that can be made. To date we have not done this."

