

Student fees Administration task force

Report suggests new fee structure

by Jane Owens

The UNL Student Fees Administration Task Force, in a report released this week, recommended the reorganization of the UNL student fees structure and the establishment of a new system for budget planning.

The task force, charged with studying how budget requests for student fees should be received, considered and recommended for approval by the NU Board of Regents, concluded that the present fee allocation system has grown "like topsy."

Funds have been allocated according to expressed needs and then these funds have not been completely reassessed, the report said.

To help overcome this factor, the task force suggested changing the term "student fees" to "UNL program and facilities fees." It also recommended establishing a UNL Program and Facilities Allocation Board to "receive and weigh budget requests."

The reports also recommended the board evaluate individual fee requests each year. No funding would be renewed automatically, except in cases of bonded indebtedness. Funds would be allocated on a yearly basis, which would coincide with UNL's fiscal year that begins July 1.

The report further recommended that the board be composed of six faculty or administrative appointees and five students.

Responsibilities of the board, as outlined in the task force report, would include:

- publicizing the date when requests for UNL program and facilities fee requests are due.
- conducting hearings on budget requests.
- being responsible to the chancellor for final recommendation for fund allocation.

-being the originating body for fees changes, that is, raising or lowering amounts requested by eligible groups.

Allocation board members would include a Board of Regents representative, the UNL Chancellor or his appointee (non-voting member), the comptroller, the vice chancellor of student affairs or his appointee, a UNL Faculty Senate appointee from both East and City Campuses, a student elected from both East and City Campuses, a student elected from graduate or

professional college, and two students appointed at-large by ASUN and the Council on Student Life (CSL).

Faculty appointments would be made by the UNL Faculty Senate.

According to the report, 1973 would be an organizational year, with the allocation board using the time "to set policies and procedures, to design forms, to analyze administrative costs and to plan the regular functioning of the council."

Interviews for election and/or appointment to the allocation board from student organizations would begin in February. Elections for the first board would be held in March, with terms of office running until June 30, 1974. The new budget system would be scheduled for introduction in early 1974, according to the report.

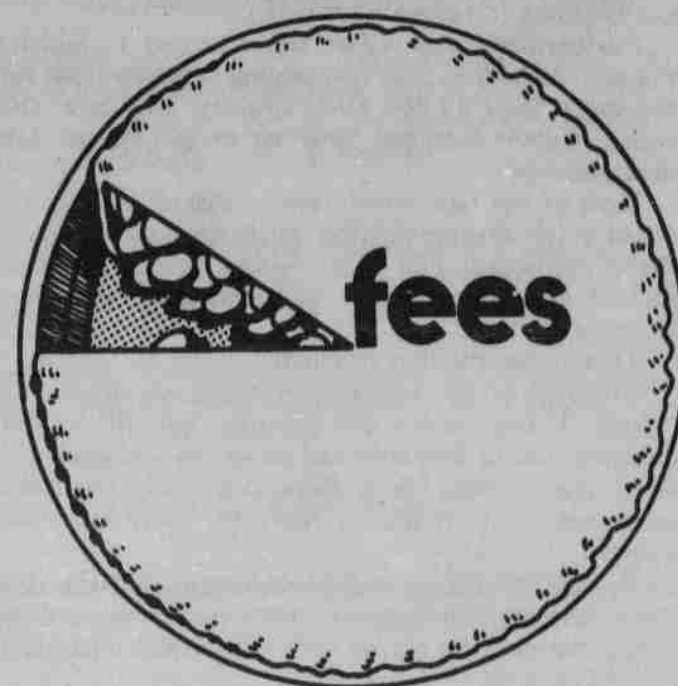
Thereafter, new officers to the board, elected or appointed in March, would take office on July 1. Students elected to the board would serve one-year terms. Faculty Senate and CSL-ASUN appointments would serve two-year terms.

The task force also suggested that ASUN hold officer elections in March, using the period until June 30 for new officer internship to "work with present officers in building the budget for the year in which the elected officers would be responsible for budgeted monies." Another alternative, suggested in the report, would have the ASUN vice-president succeed to the presidency after a one-year internship period. After the first year of elections, this would mean that only a vice-president would be elected.

All student organizations cited in the UNL Campus Handbook would be funded through the UNL Student Activities Fund, administered by the UNL Student Activities Office. All other funds would be distributed through regular university channels, according to the report.

The report also called for the establishment of a "UNL Program and Facilities Appeal Board" for organizations requesting additional funding to that which was granted.

A funding appeal by student groups would be based on new evidence and presented with a petition signed by 100 students. This appeal would be



presented to the UNL Student Affairs Office and then, if warranted, to the chancellor.

The chancellor would initiate the appellate board, which would hear the case and return its decision to the allocation board within 20 days, according to the report. After making a final decision, the board would present the case and recommended budget to the chancellor.

The appellate board would not be a standing committee but a new board would be chosen each time it was convened by the chancellor, according to the report.

The chancellor would select appellate board members from a list of jurors recommended by the appropriate organization.

The task force also recommends that the six-member appellate board include: a non-voting chairman, appointed by the chancellor; a regents appointee; a faculty member-at-large, appointed by the UNL Faculty Senate; a professional or graduate student, appointed by the Graduate Student Organization; a City Campus student, appointed by CSL and ASUN and an East Campus student, appointed by the Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics advisory boards.

Task Force recommends yearly budgeting

by H.J. Cummins

Student fees are currently distributed among nine programs each semester. Although the breakdown is approved yearly by the regents, the nine are guaranteed an established proportion of the fees.

That is what makes the Nebraska Union, the Student Health Center and the Daily Nebraskan possible, according to the individuals in charge of each program.

The established fees prevent new programs from getting a fair chance at

a portion, the Student Fees Administrative Task Force report said. And they are the reason for the proposed UNL Program and Facilities Allocation Board, the report added.

"There is no mechanism available to have access to student fees," the report said.

The eight-member task force recommended that all UNL groups start each year at a "zero-based program budget." That assumes no student-fee support until the Allocations Board grants it to them.

The nine fee-supported programs would vie equally with any UNL group seeking support. The Allocations Board would determine the priority rank of each group's request.

Staff problem

Samuel Fuenning, medical director of the University Health Services, said that under such a budget procedure, the health center would be better off as a private clinic.

Fuenning said about 60 per cent of the center's budget is student fee money.

"I don't think it would be possible to secure staff at all," he said. "And we make quite an investment in highly technical equipment. We just can't run on a year-to-year basis."

"There's no program in the United States that operates on a zero-based budget," he said.

A preventative health program would disappear if the health center became a private clinic, Fuenning said.

Budget scrutiny

The task force also recommended that all fee-supported programs bank with the Student Activities Fund which operates out of the Student Activities Office.

Fuenning said he's not familiar with the fund since the health center now operates through the larger University

budgeting department.

"I'm satisfied with the current arrangement," he said. "And to shift from the already established departments seems to just mean duplication. Every time you add to the administration, you just add to the costs."

ASUN President Bruce Beecher said he likes the opening of student fees provided through the allocations board.

He said he also welcomes putting all student fee-supported groups "under the same budgetary scrutiny ASUN has been subjected to."

But he dislikes the selection procedure for student board members, he said.

ASUN plan

Of the five student members, two will be appointed by ASUN and the Council on Student Life (CSL). One would be elected from candidates screened by ASUN and CSL; one from candidates screened by the Agriculture and Home Economic Colleges; and one from candidates screened by the Graduate Student Association.

"I don't see the justification in allowing the UNL Faculty Senate to appoint their two representatives, but not ASUN. And the proposal suggests that ASUN does not represent East Campus and graduate students. That's simply not true," Beecher said.

He said he prefers a student fee



S.I. Fuenning, medical director of University Health Services.