

Senators OK budget; Exon promises veto

By Greg Wees

State senators Wednesday passed and sent to Gov. J.J. Exon the \$249.2 million state general fund budget for fiscal 1974-75. Exon, however, already has promised to return those four appropriation bills to legislators today, vetoing sections he claims represent unwise spending, according to Norman Otto, Exon's chief administrative aide.

Today is the last day of the current legislative session and is the only chance state senators will have to override Exon's line-item vetoes.

The University budget, included in LB1054, is one of the areas Exon said will be trimmed by his fiscal ax.

Exon earlier had recommended \$58.6 million for University operations, plus another \$2 million for salary increases. The Legislature, overshooting this recommendation by more than \$3 million, appropriated \$63.8 million in general funds (the money taxpayers contribute). This was also the amount requested by NU President D.B. Varner at an Appropriations Committee hearing Feb. 13.

If Exon's budget is adopted, the University will receive an 18.2% increase over last year's general fund appropriation of \$51.2 million. If the Legislature's version prevails, the University will receive a 25% increase.

One of the innovations in this year's budget, according to Fiscal Analyst Winn Sanderson, is the \$1.7 million in "improvement funds" for UNL. The money would be used for Areas of Excellence programs (selected UNL departments allocated additional funds for improvement), for generating more student-professor contacts and for improvement of Love Library.

Using this method, the University could justify future budget requests by showing the results of the money spent, Sanderson said.

Since requests for individual departments are listed in the bill, the fiscal analysts "will be able to make sure the money goes where the University says it goes," he added.

calendar

Thursday

8:30 a.m.—Student Affairs staff-Nebraska Union
9 a.m.—Mini University No. 12 "Clerical Staff"-Union
10:30 a.m.—Mini University No. 7 "Communication Skills"-Union
12:30 p.m.—CSL Fees and Fines Committee-Union
1 p.m.—Mini University No. 10 "Religion on Campus"-Union
2:30 p.m.—Latter Day Saints Student Assoc.-Union
3 p.m.—Free University "The Unified Family"-Union
4:15 p.m.—Builders executive-Union
4:30 p.m.—Free University "Feminist Writing"-Union
4:45 p.m.—Builders Board-Union
5:30 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia-Union

7 p.m.—Council on Student Life-Union
7 p.m.—Alpha Lambda Delta-Union
7:30 p.m.—Free University "Self Defense for Women"-Union
8:30 p.m.—Executive Liaison Council-Union
9 p.m.—ASUN Legislative Liaison Committee-Union

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The Daily Nebraskan is written, edited and managed by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is editorially independent of the University faculty, administration and student body.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the Publication Committee on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the fall and spring semesters except holidays and vacations.

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Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Address: The Daily Nebraskan/34 Nebraska Union/14th & R Streets/Lincoln, Nebr. 68508. Telephone: 402/472/2588.

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