

Regents report normal summer

By Deb Gray

For the University of Nebraska regents, last summer offered no surprises, no upset apple carts.

Regent Robert Koefoot of Grand Island said it was "more quiet than usual" and Regent Robert Raun of Minden described it as a "normal" summer.

"Our work load doesn't vary that much," Raun said. "Even though students are around two semesters, our work load remains about the same throughout the summer."

Raun said the regents' approved of the University's 1974-75 budget was the most important summer business.

"But we do this every year," he said. "It's not an unusual action."

The \$107 million operating budget, approved June 29, represents a 17 percent increase over the 1973-74 budget the largest in several years.

But student programs will apparently not reap sizable profits from the increase. According to Nu President D.B. Varner, the budget provides "a relatively small number of dollars in terms of programs." About 75 percent of the budget is in salaries.

Also in June, the Board of Regents and two University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

doctors collided over the right to perform abortions at the medical center.

The board said the doctors violated their contracts by performing unauthorized abortions.

Drs. Marvin Dietrich and G. William Orr claimed that University restrictions on the number of abortions performed by UNMC staff members infringed on their rights to practice medicine.

The battle was settled in district court. Senior U.S. District Court Judge Richard E. Robinson ruled that the regents can terminate any full-time faculty member who performs abortions outside the University or University-approved facilities.

Will this decision hinder students seeking abortions?

"Essentially speaking, I think the decision is better for the patient whether they're students or non students," Koefoot said. "And it will be better for the state as a whole to have abortions performed in places other than the medical center."

Another matter the regents dealt with this summer was student fees.

NU students will pay \$10 more for campus fees this summer, totaling \$61.50 per semester for UNL full-time students.

Originally, the UNL Fee Allocation Board had recommended a \$7.39 increase, cutting out money for the Placement Office Alumni Association, the Overseas Opportunity Center, travel flights and new student programs. The board and ASUN felt these programs were not beneficial to most students and so should not be supported by student fees ASUN President Ron Clingenpeel said in a May 25 interview.

But university staff added funds for those programs to make up the \$10 hike and the regents approved the hike.

The regents interviewed were certain if visitation and alcohol on campus will continue to be issues this year. But they said they felt they shouldn't be.

"My feeling would be that the decision the regents made in the spring about alcohol on campus was a good one," Raun said.

He said he had read information this summer about the increase of alcoholism among students who are substituting liquor for hard drugs.

"I'm concerned that this is a serious problem," Raun said. "I hope students will get something underway to control it this year."

Koefoot expressed no change in his position. "As far as I'm concerned it shouldn't be an issue," he said. "The students have been turned down. I haven't changed my mind."

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