

Wright: fieldhouse operating costs high

It would be a mistake to put the operating costs of the new fieldhouse in the UNL budget, according to Ronald Wright, UNL assistant director of business and finance.

The fieldhouse, which is under construction on the state fairgrounds, will contain a 15,000 seat arena, an indoor track and a connecting building which will house the swimming, gymnastics and wrestling rooms and equipment, said Wright.

According to Wright, the operating costs will run from \$600,000 to \$750,000 a year. He said he estimated these figures by comparing the operating costs of the University of Missouri's new, but smaller fieldhouse.

If the costs of operating the fieldhouse are included in the UNL budget, Wright said, it will have the effect of raising the cost per student. This would make the instruction costs seem greater than they actually are, he said.

Wright said the funds for operation of the fieldhouse should come from state sources, but he was unsure what those sources might be. One source might be from income generated by renting the fieldhouse to different groups.

"Many groups already have the idea of using the facility," he said.

Use of the facility also will be open to the State Fair Board, according to Wright. He said the arena might be used for concerts and shows for the state fair and the track building for exhibits. The primary use of the arena will be for basketball, he said.

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