

Faith Ringgold Black Artist

Thursday February 20
8:00PM

Union Ballroom

[Informal Rap Session
3:30 Cultural Center]

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BLACK HERITAGE MONTH

Legislative committee suggests 8% increase in faculty salaries

By Betsie Ammons

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee has suggested that the University of Nebraska be provided with an increase of almost \$1.8 million (eight per cent) for faculty salaries.

This falls short of the NU Board of Regent's proposed increase of 13.5 per cent. The regent's proposal is composed of a nine per cent cost of living raise for all University employees, plus a 3½ per cent increase to bring salaries of faculty members equal with those of other Big 8 schools.

It also provides an additional one per cent for the Chancellor's Discretionary Fund, which gives monetary recognition for outstanding faculty work.

Governor J. James Exon said that most of his proposed 11 per cent increase for the University went to faculty salaries. However, the 34 per cent increase requested by the

University is "way out of line" with other Big 8 schools, he said.

Deans of colleges within the University said the proposed cut will result in a loss of faculty members and morale.

Max Larsen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that the faculty at the university is a valuable resource to the people of Nebraska. Unless pay gets better, the best professors are going to look elsewhere for jobs, he said.

"I think that it is short sighted to cut faculty salaries; after all, faculty members have been suffering from inflation just like everyone else," Larsen said. "I think that the legislature should stand up to Governor Exon and insist that faculty get fair salaries."

People are finally admitting that the University isn't a top-rated institution, Richard E. Gilbert, president of Faculty Senate, said.

"People have been 'good mouthing' us," he said, "saying that we are better than we really are." He said that with a larger budget the University could focus more on quality instead of "just muddling through."

"I'm not sure that just raising salaries would solve all problems of faculty morale," Gilbert said. What the university needs, he said, is for the chancellor and the president to "lay their jobs on the line" and say that unless there is a commitment for

improvement they will resign.

Robert Egbert, dean of Teacher's College, feels that there will be some faculty members who will leave for better paying jobs, but that there will not be a "mass exodus." "Things are not great anywhere," he said. He said there are no special problems in Teacher's College that are not found throughout the University.

Henry Grether, dean of Law School, announced that Professor Harvey Perlman won't be returning to the University next year "for money reasons." Perlman accepted a position at the University of Virginia Law School. Grether added that he "wouldn't be surprised" if the law school lost other faculty members.

T.E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture, said he hopes there will be more discussion between the university and the Legislature before any decision is made.

Salaries of faculty in the Ag College are below that of other Big 8 schools. Thomas Helms, asst. dean of the College of Agriculture said. Professors who are well fed, and clothed, who are making a decent living, are going to turn out better work, he said.

Chancellor James Zumberge said he doesn't consider the question closed yet, and that he preferred not to comment until the legislature has made a definite stand.

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