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Unicam sends salary bill back

State employes will have to wait to find out how the Legislature will vote on salary increases for them.

The Unicameral Tuesday sent LB588 back to select file on its final reading, after Sen. Shirley Marsh asked that three amendments be added to it to "insure additional support" for the bill.

Later, the senators adopted the amendments and the bill was sent back to enrollment and review where the amendments will be added before it comes before the legislators for final reading again.

Marsh said she did not know when the final reading would be.

Since the bill has an emergency clause, she said, 33 votes would be needed to pass it.

One of the amendments changed the amount of an increase employes can receive from 10 per cent of their present wages to five per cent.

The other provided that reports dealing with pay increases "shall recommend policies and processes for the future incorporation of merit increase provisions in the class and pay increases."

The third amendment changed an error that had been made in the printing of the final bill. The amendment insured that employes would have a five per cent pay increase.

Marsh said many employes were worried about this error because it implied they might be given less than the five per cent.

LB588 provides for \$13 million for state employe pay increases, including \$1 million for merit pay raises at the discretion of state agency supervisors.

The other \$12 million is the basic Exon plan for wage increases in fiscal 1976, which gives each employe a five per cent raise and \$468, to be distributed over the year in monthly amounts of \$39.

No student fees used

Food service breaks even

The Food Service Department of the Nebraska Union is not making money, but is breaking even, according to Bob Richeson, food service manager.

Richeson said the department, which includes the North Crib, South Crib Vending Machines, Cafeteria, Colonial dining room and catering does not receive student fees for its operation, but depends entirely on sales.

Richeson budgeted \$601,700 for fiscal 1974-75 operations. He said he bases his estimated budget on last year's budget and includes food and labor cost hikes.

The 1974-75 budget is up \$43,735 from the 1973-74 budget of \$547,865. Richeson said the budget must be approved by the chancellor.

Paid overtime

He said if his employes work overtime, they must be paid extra. A downtown restaurant does not have to pay overtime because tipping is allowed. Tipping is not allowed in the union, he said.

Richeson said he hopes to make about 1.16 per cent net profit. A restaurant operation of similar size makes 10 to 15 per cent profit, he said.

The department pays six per cent of its gross for the maintenance of the area and use of union offices and 3 per cent of the gross to the university for overhead.

The problem arises that 91 cents of every dollar earned is used in the operation, Richeson said.

Richeson contends there is a minimal amount of waste in union operations. Costs went up 16

per cent last year and Richeson said he expects them to go higher.

17 employes

The department operates a central kitchen and bakery, where 17 employes work.

Last year Richeson said labor costs were \$203,316. Budgeted labor costs were \$244,000. The minimum wage is paid to all employes.

Food costs went from \$206,055 in 1973-74 to \$223,700 in 1974-75, according to Richeson. This represents a 15 to 18 per cent food cost hike, he said.

In addition to food cost hikes, it is costing 33 per cent more for linens than it did last year at this time. At the end of February it cost \$5,000 for linens as compared to \$3,500 at this time last year.

Cost doubled

Richeson said the replacement of silverware and china has doubled in the last year. Last year replacement china cost \$2,100 as compared to \$4,000 this year. Richeson said the replacements are based on what is stolen or broken during the year.

In all, Richeson said, he really operates at full strength only three full months of the year.

"We are open during summer and breaks, but the volume is considerably less," he said.

He said he normally loses money in January because of the shorter time period the union is open. He said he was in the red about \$800 at the end of February.

Richeson said he operates on fixed costs and continually increases his budget to meet increasing costs of operation.

Athletes capture summer police jobs

The usual duty of hockey team "policemen" is making sure that no teammates receive rough treatment by opponents.

At UNL, another sport has policemen. The football team has five policemen on it, but they do more than discourage cheap-shot artists. Five members of the team will work for the Lincoln Police Department this summer. John Lee, Willie Thomton, Steve Gade, Chuck Jones and Jason Justice will be working with experienced officers this summer and helping them carry out their regular duties.

Using football players as summer time officers began in 1947.

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According to acting police chief Dale Adams the football players are hired chiefly as replacements for regular officers on vacation.

Twelve football players who had summer jobs with the police department have stayed on as full-time officers.

Sargent Eger, a training officer, said that the athletic department supplies the names of athletes interested in the program. The players then apply and are interviewed by the police department. Eger said that five or six players are chosen every year for the job.

Uniforms are provided for the athletes hired by the police department. Full time officers are required to pay part of the cost of their uniforms.

Nebraska football coach Cletus Fischer said that many football players are taking classes in criminal justice and became interested in the police department through law enforcement courses.