

# Report: tax support for NU ranks high in Big 8

By Theresa Forsman

If the university is not financed at the level it should be, it's not because the state is stingy with tax money.

This was the consensus in a report, which compared state funding for Big 8 universities, adopted by the Governor's Commission on University Funding at its meeting Monday afternoon.

The report, prepared by Marilyn Mertens, consultant to the commission, indicates that among the Big 8 universities:

-NU is the fifth largest school in the Big 8, but receives the largest percentage of its budget from state tax appropriations.

-UNL ranks second behind Iowa State University in yearly tax appropriations per student. UNL received \$2,118 per student during the 1975 fiscal year.

-UNL ranks next to last in the amount of federal funds it received during the 1975 fiscal year—\$9,625,000.

### Vарner's goal

The report states that NU falls \$1.1 to \$2.5 million short of NU President D.B. Varner's goal of reaching the average financing level of the top three Big 8 universities.

Mertens suggested in her report that the additional money should come from state

legislative appropriations.

Commission member Jon Oberg, disagreed.

In a letter to the commission, Oberg said nonstate funds account for a smaller portion of the budget each year. The university has continually looked to the Legislature to make up this loss of funds, Oberg's letter said, but urged them to attempt to maximize outside funds.

"The university has received healthy tax financing increases in each of the past few years, and has come to expect them," he stated in the letter.

### State tax dollar

The state tax dollar does not go as far as it does at other universities, Oberg added. State tax support for the university was 15.5 per cent higher in fiscal 1975 than in fiscal 1974.

Oberg's letter said by not making up the yearly non-state fund loss, the Legislature could restore the university's incentive to raise other funds and help itself.

William Erskine, NU executive vice president for finance and a member of the commission, voted against adoption of the report because he said he wanted to verify portions of the report.

Though the report is dated August, 1975, Erskine said he did not receive a copy until last week.

He said the report may dispute statistics gathered by the state fiscal analysts office. The state office prepared a report about a

year ago, Erskine said, which showed that university state financing was inadequate.

"We are aware that the university needs to be more active in securing its share of federal funds," Erskine added.

The commission was formed in September, 1974, by Gov. J. J. Exon. Gus Lieske, chairman of the 13-member commission, said the governor charged the commission with comparing NU financing levels and output with those at other Big 8 universities.

The commission is expected to complete its work by January, 1976, Lieske said.

## Amendment given to Union Board

The Nebraska Union Advisory Board will consider a proposed amendment to their bylaws at its meeting today.

Introduced by Dean Kirby, the amendment strikes section F, part 1, paragraph B as follows: "Student members of the board shall not hold membership on the board and serve as a member, committee chairperson or assistant chairperson in the Union Program Council (UPC) at the same time, with the exception of the elected officer from each program council."

The first five minutes of the 5:30 p.m. meeting will be devoted to open forum when anyone may address the board.

Latin humanistic tradition in Mexico and its continuity over 400 years was discussed Tuesday as a part of UNL's Mexican Festival.

Manuel Alcala (right), director-general of the Library Archives and Publication for the Mexican State Department, spoke as part of a week-long presentation sponsored by the Mexican government as a Bicentennial gift to the United States.

"We are very proud in Mexico of our native heritage," Alcala said. Within this heritage is the European classic, humanistic tradition, he added, of which Latin is the richest.

Alcala discussed Mexican authors involved in this tradition.

The Mexican Festival, Jornadas Mexicanas, will continue through Friday.



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