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Exon proposes budget

By Dick Piersol

Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon presented his 1976-77 state budget recommendations Tuesday and his "State of the State" message to the Nebraska Legislature.

He recommended a total general fund outlay of \$364.7 million, compared to the Legislature Appropriations Committee's recommendations of \$370 million and last year's \$350.8 million.

The proposal would allow a reduction in the state income tax from 15 to 13 per cent of federal income tax liability, Exon said. He suggested alternatives of eliminating the state sales tax on food or keeping the sales tax rate at two and one-half per cent.

The governor also proposed \$84.1 million in tax support for NU. The Appropriations Committee recommendation was \$88 million and NU requested \$100 million.

Exon proposed that university appropriations only be allotted in four areas: Central administration; campus operations; the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources; and cash, revolving and federal accounts.

Regents allowed flexibility

This proposal is not the single sum appropriation NU administrators requested. The NU Board of Regents would be allowed flexibility within the four Exon guidelines to distribute funds and fix salaries. The proposal also provides a regents' discretionary fund of \$1.5 million.

The budget's separation of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources from other campus operations was made because of its "fundamental importance to the

state," Exon said. Although he said he and the Legislature wanted to closely watch that particular segment of the university, he added, "I don't think the Legislature should go into every detail. It should provide money and direction."

The budget request does not recommend a higher rate of general fund increase than total funds increase for the university.

Exon proposed that the ceilings on cash and general fund monies be raised, allowing the university to make more use of self-generated funds, such as tuition and federal funds.

Although the university's non-tax support includes tuition, the governor said that does not necessarily mean an increase in tuition rates.

He proposed that all state employees receive a 3 per cent salary increase on July 1, another 3 per cent on their service date anniversary and be eligible for another 1 per cent merit pay increase at department superiors' discretion.

The provision for 3 per cent increases on service dates makes the salary impact closer to a 5 and one-half per cent increase for 1976-77 rather than a total raise of 7 per cent, Exon said. He rejected requests for 935 new state employees.

Additions to prisons

Capital construction recommendations included continued support for medium-minimum security additions at the Department of Correctional Services in Omaha and Lincoln, at costs of \$836,000 and \$463,000, respectively.

The construction funds for Lincoln are in addition to \$2.8 million appropriated by the Legislature last session. Total costs of both units are expected to be \$15 million.

The governor's recommended priority construction project for the university is \$3 million for the UNL Plant Sciences Bldg. The finished project will cost \$10 million.

Exon also recommended support for LB597, transferring the Vocational Rehabilitation program from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW). He suggested changing the name of DPW to the Department of Human Resources, "to reflect the addition of non-income maintenance responsibilities."

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Enrollment reaches record high

Enrollment records were set during both semesters of the 1975-76 school year, said Gerald Bowker, dean of academic services.

This semester's enrollment of 20,892 students is 339 more than the previous record for second semester enrollment, set in the 1972-73 school year, he said.

The new spring semester record follows a record first semester enrollment last fall. Last semester's 22,380 was 800 more than the previous record set in 1972.

Bowker said this year's second semester enrollment is

696 more than the 1974-75 second semester, when 20,196 students were enrolled.

The number of undergraduate students increased by 663, Bowker said, totaling 15,751 compared to 15,088 a year ago. He said graduate college enrollment increased to 3,301, compared to 3,155 last year.

Bowker said second semester enrollment figures usually are lower than first semester figures. He said the student decrease is caused by "natural attrition."

Business college attracts women

By Larry Lutz and Sue Moline

The number of women enrolled in the College of Business Administration (CBA) has nearly doubled in the last two years, according to Mary Mowday, coordinator of CBA undergraduate programs.

Of the 2,344 undergraduates enrolled in CBA during the fall of 1975, 452 were women, compared to 362 in the 1974-75 school year. Women comprise about 18 per cent of the 1975 total.

There are 2,199 undergraduates enrolled for the spring 1976 semester in CBA, but further breakdowns were unavailable.

Mowday said that while the number of men in CBA has remained about 1,900, the number of women "has increased steadily for several years, beginning in the 1960s."

There are several factors contributing to the increase in women's enrollment, she said. The main reason is better career opportunities, partly because of equal opportunity legislation, she said.

Another reason career opportunities have increased, she said, is that businesses are offering women more significant jobs than they have in the past. Women now have the opportunity to choose careers in administration and management and not just what she called lower level business positions, she said.

Accounting has become the most popular CBA area of study, Mowday said.

"Women are recognizing that tremendous job opportunities in business and management are available to them," she said. "They are learning not to limit themselves to office and clerical training."

Mowday said she thinks that society did not look down on women if they choose a career outside the home like it had in the past. Men are taking a new look at women and accepting them into the business field for qualified positions, she said.

Women are not aware of the possibilities in business because they have not been involved until recently, she said. The main problem women are having in the college is learning about opportunities in business outside the teaching field, she said.

Picket hits life science building site

Labor Union Local No. 1140 picketed the UNL Life Sciences Bldg. site Tuesday, but UNL Business Manager Ron Wright said the action has no great significance.

"As far as I know," Wright said Tuesday afternoon, "no workers have walked off the job and everything is going fine."

The lone picket was opposing the use of nonunion members for unloading drywall for the Eliason and Knuth Drywall Co., Wright said.

Eliason and Knuth have had "a number of battles around town," with organized labor, Wright said. "This is probably another little skirmish."

Bob Knuth, one of the company's owners, said he is not concerned with the picketing which he said will probably break up by tomorrow.

The company from which Eliason and Knuth obtains sheetrock has no union laborers, he said, and these laborers unloaded the truck.

Union members have been urging Eliason and Knuth to organize its labor for sometime, Knuth said.



Photo by Kevin Higley