

Tuition boost possible next fall

By Bryant Brooks

The higher education appropriations bill, LB690, calls for a tuition increase next fall of \$2 for Nebraska residents and \$5.75 for non-residents a credit hour, according to Robert Lovitt, UNL comptroller.

That would make tuition \$20 a credit hour for residents and \$54 a credit hour for non-residents.

The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee will not make its final recommendations until it has analyzed Gov. J. James Exon's budget proposal in detail, according to committee chairman Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings. He said the committee's proposal probably will go to the floor of the Legislature in mid-February.

Exon has recommended a \$7.2 million increase in NU's budget, which is less than one-third of the amount the NU Board of Regents requested last August. Exon also indicated to NU President D.B. Varner that an additional \$5 million should be generated by NU.

But, "tuition is the only source I can see" to generate the \$5 million, Varner said. And this would mean a 30 per cent tuition increase, he added. A 30 per cent increase would be \$6 for residents and \$16 for non-residents a

credit hour.

UNL students pay more

Varner said UNL students pay higher tuition than any other Big 8 Conference school, while legislative support is among the lowest.

Three recent studies have been made to determine the amount needed to bring NU's budget in line with the top three Big 8 schools, Varner said.

Another proposal, the outcome of a study by Winn Sanderson, NU assistant vice-president for budget and planning, indicated that UNL needs another \$5 million to be comparable to the top three Big 8 schools.

A study, commissioned by Exon, showed that between \$7 million and \$8 million is needed to raise NU to these standards. Of that figure, UNL would need \$2.9 million.

The third study by the Legislative Fiscal Analysts office indicated \$3 million is needed for parity.

At the Appropriations Committee hearing last Wednesday, Varner said the average of the three studies would be manageable only if NU pays 25 per cent of the increase and the state pays the other 75 per cent.

NU's 25 per cent is the 11.11 per cent tuition hike out-

lined in LB690. Varner said he could recommend an increase if the Legislature agrees on its 75 per cent.

"That would mean a resident tuition increase of two or three dollars," Varner said.

Lincoln Sen. Shirley Marsh, Appropriations Committee member, said the 11.11 per cent tuition increase may not be necessary.

"We need to look at what other students in comparable universities are paying," she said, adding that a "head-on collision" between the governor's proposal and the committee's could take place on the legislative floor if a compromise is not reached in committee.

The 11.11 per cent increase would mean an additional \$1.2 million for NU, making UNL's net tuition income \$12 million based on a projected 603,133 credit hours to be carried in the 1976-77 school year, according to Lovitt.

He said there have been two tuition hikes since 1971. In 1971 tuition was \$216 for residents and \$579 for non-residents carrying 12 or more hours. The current tuition rates were initiated in September 1973.

The regents have the final decision on any tuition increases.

SUN classes face new approval plan

By Ron Ruggless

A procedure drafted in October 1975, should help in State University of Nebraska (SUN) course approval, according to Steven Sample, NU vice-president for academic affairs.

Sample said dispute over course accreditation arose last fall over the approval of several courses offered through SUN's media program for persons unable to attend NU campus classes.

SUN had trouble with the learning disabilities course, he said, which is offered for graduate credit. The course was approved by Herbert Garfinkel, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), vice-chancellor of academic affairs, Sample said, but Carl Leopold, UNL graduate college dean, did not get a chance to consider it before SUN ran the course.

The course is offered this spring with no graduate credit.

The new procedure, he said, requires that SUN courses be submitted to Sample, who writes a course summary. Then it goes to the academic vice-chancellors at UNL, UNO and the University of Nebraska Medical Center for accreditation.

The course then is transferred to the campus that will offer the credit, Sample said. The appropriate dean, department chairman and faculty members evaluate the course and return it to him.

If the course is approved, SUN is given the go-ahead by Sample. However, if it does not meet faculty members' standards, suggestions are submitted to Sample and SUN faculty members, he said.

If the course is to carry graduate credit, he said, the accrediting campus graduate dean and faculty members must approve the course.

Though previous course approval mistakes were made by "parties acting in good faith," Sample said, the new approval procedure should dispell errors.

SUN Dean Milton Hassel said spring offerings include two NU Extension Division courses (Nebraska History and Psychology II) with the seven other courses in the year-old program including: The Characteristics of Learning Disabilities, Freehand Sketching, Accounting II, Writing for a Reason, American Economy, Fundamentals of Computer Science and Accounting I.

The courses are sent to study-at-home students through newspapers, television and video-cassettes.

About 2,041 students have registered for SUN courses since the program began a year ago, he said.

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Photo by Ted Kirk

With a 9.4 performance Saturday on the still rings, Nebraska's Larry Gerard defeated Iowa State University's Keith Heaver, defending national champion. UNL went on to defeat ISU's gymnastics team 212.10 to 211.05. Until Saturday, ISU was ranked first nationally.

Survey to be taken among NU faculty members

By Gail Smith

Faculty and administrative staff at UNL, the University of Nebraska of Omaha (UNO) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center will be asked to report how much work they do, according to Conny Nelson, UNL assistant vice-president for academic affairs.

He said each faculty and staff member will receive a "Faculty Activities Survey" by late February. The survey is a requirement of LB610, the NU appropriations bill, passed by the Nebraska Legislature last spring.

Survey results will be tabulated by the staffs of the academic affairs offices and administrations of each campus and President D. B. Varner's office, Nelson said. The results are expected by the end of March, he said.

Nelson said the survey asks faculty and staff members to describe how much time they spend in the three major missions of NU: teaching, service (public service and extension) and scholarship (research).

Harry Allen, director of institutional research and planning for UNL, said faculty and academic administrative staff, including college deans, business managers and others, will receive surveys. He said they are asked to enter the number of hours they work in a typical week and the percentage of time spent in teaching, service and scholarship activities.

Nelson said the survey is not an attempt to report on the workloads of the individual persons. The Legislature

wants workload averages for "given units," he said, like departments, colleges and campuses.

Where money goes

State Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings, chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, which introduced LB610 last spring, said the Legislature appropriated \$77 million to NU last year. He said the survey is an attempt to find out where the money goes, and, if it goes to people, what they do with it.

The Legislature is pressured, Marvel said, by persons who want to give NU more money and persons who want to know where the money goes. He said taxpayers often ask the Legislature about NU faculty workload.

The survey will gather information about the workload so expenditures can be justified, Marvel said.

Dave McGill, an agronomy professor and part-time assistant to the UNL vice-chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was a member of the Faculty Activities Survey Committee. He said the committee devised the form of the survey.

Activities vary

McGill said it was a problem to create a form that would apply to persons on the three NU campuses because activities vary across the system. The committee listed definitions which describe faculty member's activities, he said.

For example, he said, faculty members are asked to de-

fine the kind of classes they teach such as lecture, independent study or others.

He said they also are asked how many hours they spend in class, preparation, library work and instruction improvement. Answers will be based on hours spent during a typical week last semester, he said, because an official count of how many students were enrolled in courses offered last semester, based on correction rosters, was available. He said the survey originally was scheduled to be distributed before those statistics were available for the current semester.

Allen said his office is supplying information that will be pre-printed on the survey form. He said the name of the faculty or staff member will be pre-printed on his or her survey. If the person has a teaching assignment, he said, the form will have a record of the classes and the number of students in them.

Larry Baskamp, assistant to UNL Interim Chancellor Adam Breckenridge said surveys of this type are becoming common at most universities.

Braskamp is a member of the Inter-Campus Equity Committee, which was established about a year ago by Varner. Braskamp said the committee is trying to discover if faculty members at UNL and UNO get comparable salaries for comparable qualifications and responsibilities, and if comparable academic programs at UNL and UNO have comparable levels of financial support.