

Reduced budget causes cuts in student services

By Theresa Forsman

More confusion, unanswered questions and longer lines will be results of the \$500,000 reduction in university administrative expenses imposed by the Legislature, according to Ken Bader, vice chancellor of student affairs at UNL.

UNL's share of that budget cut is \$190,000, said Lyle Johnson, budget analyst for the university.

The cut will be absorbed in student services, UNL's business and finance office, the Office of Information and in UNL Chancellor Roy Young's office.

Advisors will no longer be sent outstate to advise high school students planning to attend UNL, Bader said. Also, the general information booklet will no longer be sent to freshmen enrolling for the first time, he said.

"There will be more confusion and concern among students and parents as a result of ending these services," Bader said.

The Help Line, which provided counseling and answered questions for UNL students, will be discontinued, Bader said.

"The Help Line is one of the great things we have got going for us. There is no question that it was providing a valuable service," Bader said.

Bader and others whose offices were affected by the cuts decided where to cut services or personnel.

"The cutbacks on UNL have been applied equitably," he said. "We have all shared in this."

Bader said that though much evaluation was involved in deciding where to cut the budget, some cuts will have a negative impact.

It was impossible to cut the budget without cutting services, he said, because there is no slack in UNL's administrative budget.

Reduced services

Other services eliminated or reduced this year:

—No part-time or substitute clerical coverage for the offices affected.

—Reduced telephone, travel and subscription expenses.

—Fewer personnel in the student counseling center, the minority affairs office and the Greek advising office.

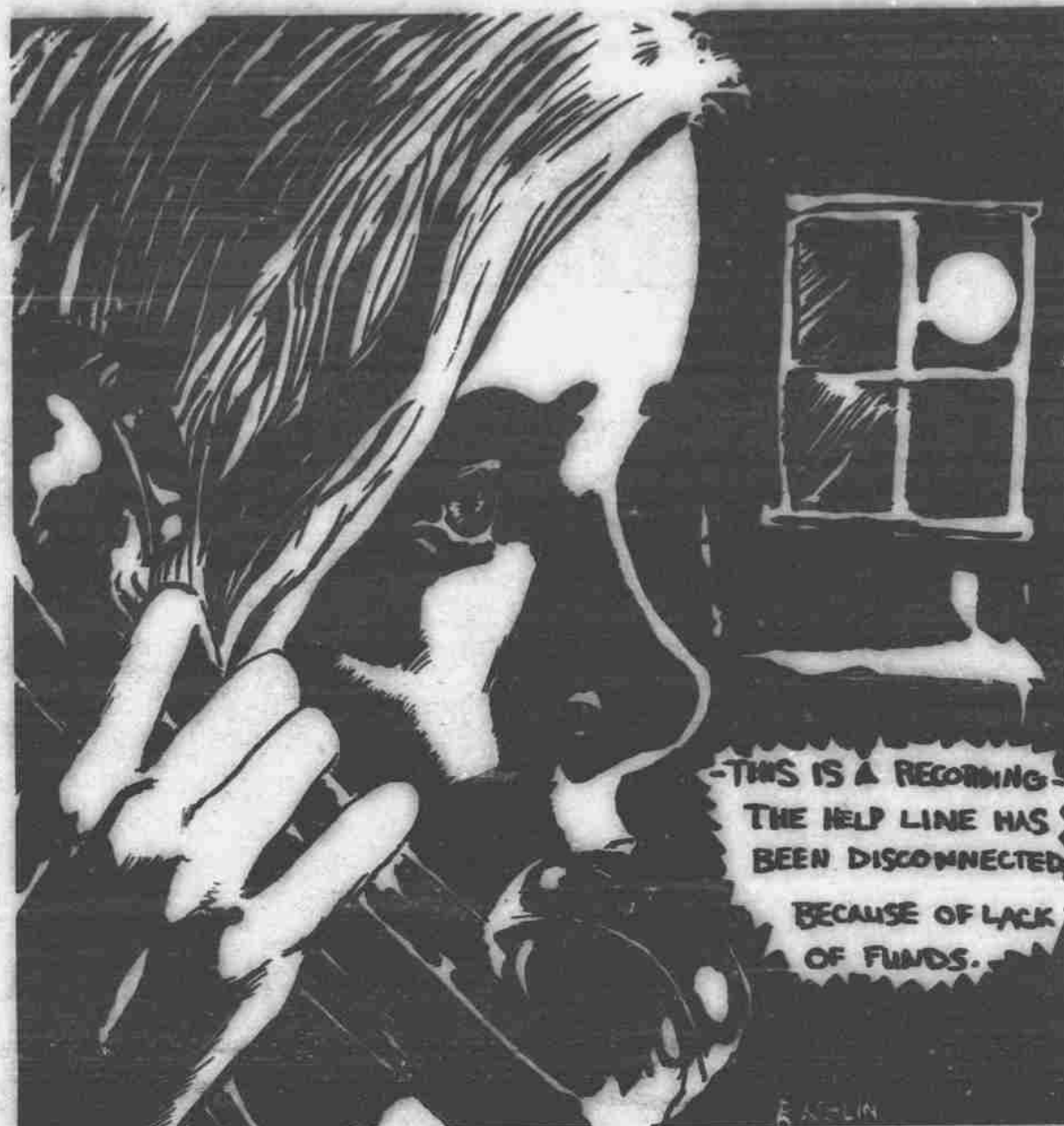
—Reduced funds for the day-care center.

—The honors brochure for prospective honor students will not be printed.

Costs of senior checks, which tells students which credits they need to complete degree requirements, will be absorbed by each department, Bader said. Departments will be assessed according to the percentage of their students who used the service this year, Bader said.

"The departments do not know where they will get the money for this," Bader said. "They are already running deficit operations."

The budget cut was intended to reduce administrative costs at the systems (central administration) level rather than on the individual campuses, Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh told the NU Board of Regents at their June 26 meeting.



Cavanaugh introduced the amendment which imposed the budget reduction.

According to Johnson, the budget cuts will be distributed as follows:

—\$56,198 from central administration.
—\$138,017 from the university computer system.

—\$190,000 from UNL.
—\$87,324 from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).
—\$73,712 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

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SBA President:

Tuition increase hard to justify

By Marella Synovec

A tuition increase for UNL's College of Law approved at the June 26 meeting of the NU Board of Regents is difficult to justify in light of conditions at the law college, said Steve Mercure, UNL Student Bar Association (SBA) president.

The board raised tuition for law students \$80 a year to \$617 for Nebraska residents and to \$1,095 for non-residents.

A tuition hike for students in the College of Dentistry also was approved. Tuition increases for the rest of UNL's colleges were approved at the board's May meeting.

Students in UNL's professional colleges pay a blanket rate computed on an hourly basis. First year law students take 36 hours, and 30 hours each year for the next two years, Mercure said.

Opposition to increase

In a letter submitted to the regents, Mercure outlined the SBA's opposition to the increase:

—Increasing enrollments are not being met by increasing the number of faculty members or services offered.

—Excessively large classes are being taught.

—The job placement program at the law school is inadequate.

Mercure said he wrote the letter because he wanted to call public attention to "the fact that the College of Law is not receiving the quality of education to justify a tuition increase at this time."

The letter was submitted to Omaha Regent James Moylan, chairman, prior to the board meeting, Mercure said.

Although Mercure said he did not speak at the public meeting in opposition to the increase, he was "under the impression that the board would give it some attention."

Mercure said he did not feel the issue was given enough consideration by the regents.

"It was a foregone conclusion that tuition rates would be raised," he said. "But along with the increase I would like to see the money go into developing the faculty, instruction and atmosphere of the College of Law."

"Increase not justified"

"The administration has not given the law school the support it needs to develop its quality," Mercure said. "The regents gave no reason for raising the tuition without justifying it for students."

Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said there was little discussion among board members about Mercure's letter.

"There was not a great deal of information opposing the rate increase," he said, "and to my knowledge no one had requested to appear on the agenda at the meeting."

"The board agreed that the tuition increase was justified because of rising inflationary costs. Also, we were concerned with keeping the tuition rates of the professional colleges in line with undergraduate tuition rates," Schwartzkopf said.

Henry Grether, dean of the College of Law, said the regents had assured him that when the rates were raised, they would be consistent with the rate of increase approved for undergraduate colleges earlier this year.

In addition to the problem areas described in Mercure's letter, other student concerns, he said, are a lack of the law school administrative control over the law library, inadequate minority recruitment programs and mandatory student fees which he said do not benefit law students.

Periodic inspection

The SBA outlined their concerns in a report to a joint American Bar Association/American Association of Law Schools inspection committee. Law schools are inspected periodically, usually every seven years, Mercure said. UNL's College of Law was last reviewed by the associations 14 years ago, he said.

Mercure said the SBA met with the inspection team, which was chaired by the dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and was receptive to the SBA's concerns.

But the status of any change is in limbo right now, Mercure said, because of the change in deans.

John Strong will succeed Grether as dean of UNL's law college in January.

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