

Regents okay budget request, increase tuition

By Anita Stork

The NU Board of Regents Wednesday approved a \$108 million general fund budget request, including a five per cent projected tuition increase.

The budget request, presented to the board by NU President D. B. Varner, indicated the tuition increase was necessary because of an expected rise in the Consumer Price Index.

Varner said the tuition boost, which means students will pay \$1 more a credit hour, reflects "the increase in the cost of living."

"We hate to do this to the students and parents," Varner said. "Raising tuition even a dollar per credit hour could price some people out of the market."

Original request

The original budget request represented a 16.5 per cent increase in the general fund appropriation, from \$94.6 million to \$110.2 million. But Varner subtracted a \$1.5 million loss in federal funds to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and said the actual increase in the general fund budget would be 15 per cent.

However, complaints from the regents that the 15 per cent increase request was too high resulted in the 2.5 per cent reduction in the general fund request.

After considering numerous suggestions for absorbing the 2.5 per cent reduction, the board decided to cut salaries and the general improvement fund.

The board initially considered a nine per cent increase in faculty salaries and a six per cent pay increase for everyone else. Finally the board opted for 8.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent increases, respectively.

Varner said he supported the nine per cent and six per cent increases because faculty salaries currently lag six per cent behind the average salaries for land grant institutions.

"By adding an additional three per cent increase to faculty salaries, half the gap would be closed," Varner said.

Salary cuts necessary

Several regents agreed with Varner that improving faculty salaries was important, but maintained that the salary cuts also were necessary because the 15 per cent increase was unfair to taxpayers.

Regent Robert Koeft of Grand Island, said a 15 per cent increase is "more than the taxpayers will bear."

"With the present drought conditions in the state, a 10 per cent increase is the most we can approve," Koeft said.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said he was tired of hearing about budget cuts.

"We want a quality institution," Schwartzkopf said. "Let's have a budget that will move us ahead."

The university should move ahead, Koeft said, as far as it can afford to.

UNO parity allotment

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff suggested cutting the \$500,000 allotted for UNO parity. He also reminded the regents that no matter what budget they passed, "the Legislature will have a second look at it anyway."

Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber suggested terminating current programs when cutting the budget.

According to Varner, cuts should be made in the program improvement fund where "the least damage would be done."

After considerable debate, the board voted to slice \$2.5 million from the recommended \$3.8 million program improvement fund.

The cut will be spread throughout the three campuses, the board said.

UNL's original portion of the program improvement fund was \$1.7 million, UNO and the medical center, \$850,000 each, and Central Administration \$445,000. The board said the \$2.5 million cut will be divided proportionately among the campuses.

Resignations

The regents accepted a number of resignations including those of Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Winn Sanderson, assistant vice president for budget and cost analysis.

Varner said the large number of resignations by high-ranking UNL officials had given people a feeling that "there's something wrong at UNL."

"To the best of my knowledge, all those leaving are advancing professionally and salary-wise," Varner said.

Varner said he has received an envelope from the search committee containing seven names for the medical center chancellor position.

The regents urged Varner to narrow the field to three and give his recommendations to the new NU president, who will make the final selection.

Other action

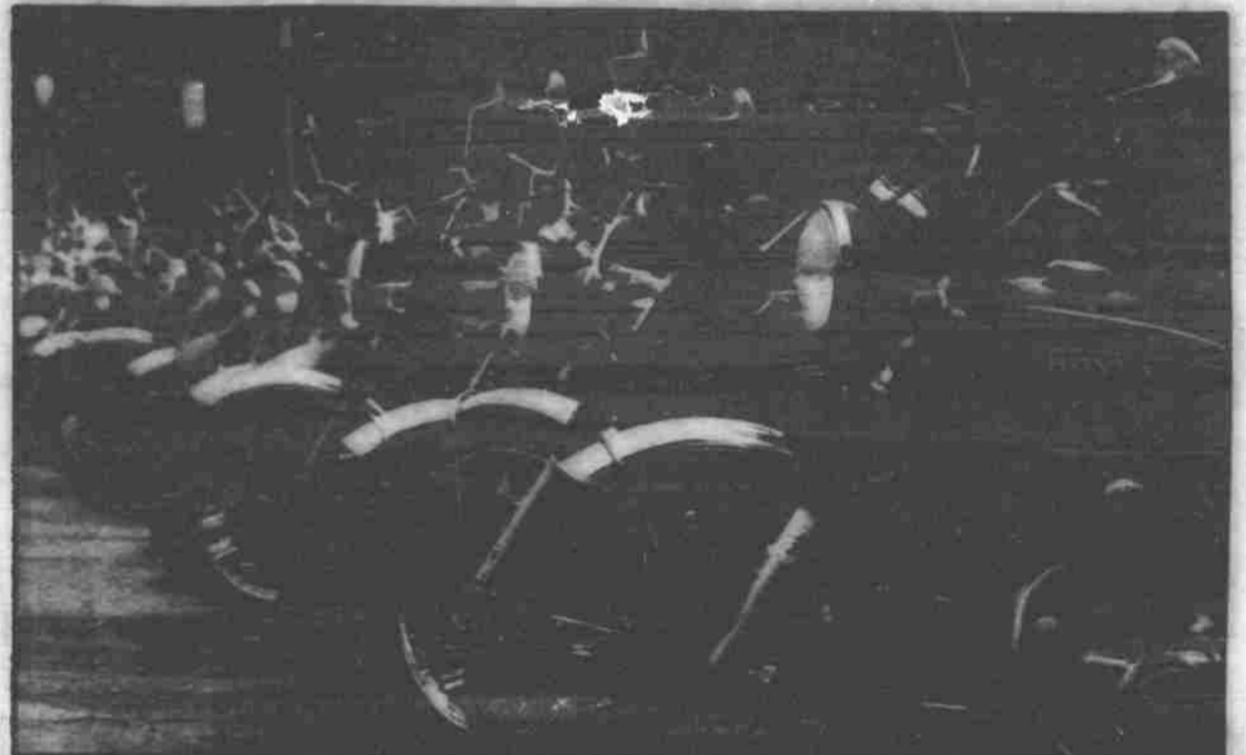
In other actions, the regents: —Approved the capital construction budget, deleting \$1 million from the Agricultural Engineering Bldg., which will be built of steel instead of brick as originally planned.

—Gave the go-ahead for a plan for determination of academic rank for personnel in the University of Nebraska State Museum.

—Authorized expenditure of up to \$458,630 for alterations and improvement in Residence Halls, the Nebraska Union and the University Health Center to comply with the state fire codes. This is an ongoing project.

—Requested the NU Foundation to purchase lots at Fircher and Baldwin's second addition to University Place for lease to UNL.

—Changed the name of the Department of Minority Affairs to Department of Multi-Cultural Affairs. Bader said the term "minority" was seen as synonymous for only third world persons. "The name multi-cultural is broad enough to encompass all groups."



Motorcycles parked on R St., in front of Love Library.

Daily Nebraskan Photo

Ticketing motive is 'order'

"Attaining some semblance of order is our main objective for ticketing motorcycles at 12th and R streets," said Police Chief Dean Leitner.

The policy referred to by Leitner involves ticketing of all motorcycles parked in non-designated areas along 12th and R streets. Up until this year motorcycles were allowed to park between the red lines that marked the fire lane at the intersection.

According to Leitner, vehicles in these areas posed no problems in the past, but now because of an increased number of motor cycles the situation has "gotten out of hand."

City Traffic Engineer Robert Holsinger said, "We are looking into all red zone

areas to see how many spaces we can create and you can be sure that we will make spaces for as many motorcycles as possible." He explained that specific zones will be created so motorcycle operators will know exactly where they can park. He said that according to legal clearances, "we will clear up once and for all just how many cycles can be accommodated."

Leitner said the space available will not be diminished much, "but just enough to clear the cross-walks and the fire lane."

The fine for parking in a restricted area is one dollar.

The office of the traffic engineer plans to gradually mark all motorcycle parking spaces throughout the city until "all doubts will be cleared up as to what is restricted and what is not," said Holsinger.

Regent Shovers on probation

Steven Shovers, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) student body president and student regent, has been placed on disciplinary probation at UNO and may be unable to complete his terms in those positions, the Daily Nebraskan learned Wednesday.

Ronald Beer, UNO vice-chancellor for educational and student services, said the probation resulted from an alleged incident during the latter part of July. Beer would not comment on the specifics of the case.

Shovers could not be reached Wednesday for comment. He attended Wednesday's NU Board of Regents meeting as student regent.

Beer said disciplinary probation usually prevents a UNO student from representing UNO in student organizations. Because of "the circumstances involved," however, no sanctions would be placed on Shovers until he completed the appeals process prescribed in the UNO student handbook, Beer said.

The UNO Appeals Board will meet sometime next week at Shovers' request to study his case, Beer said. The board consists of three students, two faculty members and one UNO staff member.

Because the three student members usually are chosen by the student body president and confirmed by the student senate, Beer said, the speaker of the student senate would act in Shovers' place and choose the three students. The students still would be confirmed by the senate.

UNO Chancellor Ronald Roskens will choose the faculty and staff members.

If the appeals board votes to uphold Shovers' probation, he then may appeal its decision to Roskens. If Roskens would decide to uphold the board's decision, Shovers could appeal the matter to the regents.

Beer said this is the normal procedure for such matters. He emphasized that Shovers has not been expelled from UNO or suspended from classes.

Stavas gets nod for ASUN post

ASUN Senator Joe Stavas was elected Wednesday evening as ASUN second vice president.

Stavas, a senior, was nominated by ASUN President Bill Mueller to replace former second vice president Dennis Martin who resigned from ASUN last week.

Mueller said he selected Stavas "because he has the most experience and is the most compatible with my philosophy."

Stavas, who conferred with Mueller last Friday about the nomination, said he wants to get the community system working and keep in touch with other executive members.

Stavas has been an ASUN senator for one and one half years.



Photo by Ted Kink

What are these men smiling about? These life-size cutouts were on display at the Nebraska Sheriff's and Nebraska Peace Officer's exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. More photos and story on page 10.