

# Inflation among reasons for increase of science grants

By Mary Jo Howe

Science grants to UNL are increasing in number and dollar amounts, according to spokesmen for the UNL Physics, Chemistry and Life Science Depts.

New and more competent faculty members, improved department programs, and inflation are some of the reasons why,

said Lee Graham, administrative assistant for the Chemistry Dept.

Many research activities started about 1967-1971 are maturing now, he said, making them more eligible for funds. Eight new grants have been given to Chemistry Dept. faculty in the last 12 months. This is about five more than in 1975. The

total dollar amount has risen from \$580,000 to \$670,000, with the average grant from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

This money is consumed for personnel, graduate students, assistants, chemicals, supplies and equipment.

Current environmental problems have a great deal to do with the number and types of grants financed, Graham explained. Now, federal agencies are interested in cancer, energy and the environment, so many research proposals on these subjects have received grants, he said.

The increase in dollar amounts may be because of inflation, he added. There have been situations in which chemicals prices have increased 25 per cent to 300 per cent. Silver nitrate, for example, cost \$7 a pint in 1972, but now costs about \$135 a pint.

"The research grants have been very important in allowing us to make advancements in teaching and research facilities, as well as instilling confidence in individuals in the department," Graham said. "As a result, many faculty members are becoming regionally and nationally prominent."

Renewals, dollar amounts and number of grants also are up in the Physics Dept. said Administrative Assistant William Cosgrove.

"At present we have 18 grants compared to 16 last year," Cosgrove said. "We would anticipate more in the near future due to the recent focus on the energy problem."

Nearly a half million dollars in federal funds is being used for teaching and research in the department this year.

As for the increase, Cosgrove said he thinks it's mostly a matter of timing on the professors' part.

The Life Sciences School has seen a jump from \$245,000 to \$415,000 in research grants over the last year, according to research administrator Frank Schmehl. Sixteen grants are in effect this year compared to 11 in 1975.

"New professors, the new life science field school at Lake McConaughy, and improvements in programs may be why the grants have risen," he said.

According to Graham, the Research Administration provides a known list of agencies that will fund grants to professors who submit research proposals.

The research administration forwards the proposals to the agencies that review them and notify the university if a proposal will be financed.

Grants usually are for one year, but some may range from five to 25 years, depending on the project.

## Language lunch urges usage

The Harvest Room in the Nebraska Union takes on a foreign flavor twice a week when Spanish, German, and French students gather for lunch and informal conversation.

The lunch table organization encourages language students to practice informal conversation and to meet instructors, according to Ali Moeller, instructor in the German Dept.

The languages alternate every week and a flag or sign is placed on the table for identification. Students may bring their lunch or eat in the cafeteria.

This is the first time the Modern Language Dept. has sponsored the program, said Moeller. She has been sponsoring the lunch for about five years through the Centennial Education Program.


Any student is invited to the lunch whether enrolled in a language or not.

The language tables and meeting dates are: Spanish, Wednesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.; French, Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.; German, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

The German Dept. is also sponsoring a "sing" every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union, starting Sept. 28.

The German Folk Song songfest is for the encouragement and enjoyment of singing German folk songs, said Joann Kuhr, German instructor.

The sing will be held on alternate Tuesdays with the room number posted in the Union. Students need not be enrolled in German.



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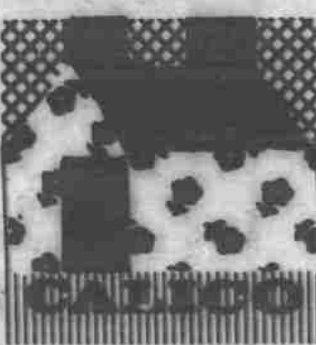
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