

# Students give \$3,475 to PACE

By Mary Jo Fitzl

The financial aid program supported solely by student contributions received \$3,475.50 this semester, said Gary Fouraker, assistant bursar.

PACE (Program for Active Commitment to Education) received 933 contributions, Fouraker said, all from the PACE section on semester tuition statements.

Students have the option of contributing \$3.50 to the program when they pay their tuition. Fouraker estimated that \$200 to \$300 will be added to PACE from late tuition payments.

PACE is sponsored by the Scholarships and Financial Aids Office. Proceeds from PACE give grant assistance to needy students, said Ron Fritz, associate director of scholarships and financial aids.

Any student who has applied for financial aid at UNL may be a PACE recipient, Fritz added.

### Funds allocated

PACE funds are allocated to students with high financial need who do not qualify for other grant programs, Fritz said. In many cases, he said, PACE is used to supplement students with other financial aid sources to provide for their total financial need.

Some 53 students are receiving PACE assistance this semester. The average grant per student is approximately

\$100 to \$150. Fritz said, although that amount varies from semester to semester.

"We try to be consistent with students in allocating money," Fritz added.

The Scholarships and Financial Aids Office receives a figure from the Bursar's Office telling how much money can be awarded each semester, Fritz said.

"We try to spend it all. It's here to use."

### Carryover is small

The money raised from the first and second semester contributions of this academic year will apply to next year's PACE program, Fritz explained. Carryover from each year is small, he said, usually \$500 to \$1,000.

PACE was established in the fall of 1971 by an ASUN committee as a "program of commitment by students to help other needy students go to school," Fritz said.

Support for the program has declined since it started, Fouraker said. In the past, PACE was supplemented by drives and other fund-raising projects, but the program now relies solely on contributions through tuition statements, he said.

Fouraker said donors vary from the average student paying his way through school to students receiving other forms of financial aid. Contributions to PACE are tax-free.

# Computer budget is short \$91,004—at least on paper

There isn't a counterfeiting ring at the UNL computer system, but UNL computer budgets were short \$91,004 in "funny money" during the last fiscal year, and may be short again this year.

Money for the computer network is in a fixed budget and is divided between the three NU campuses, which in turn allow certain amounts to each department. The computing center then charges for services, such as machine time.

The catch is that the charging system "brings in the money faster than is necessary to cover costs," said Wilfred Schutz, acting chairman of the UNL Faculty Senate Computational Services and Facilities Committee. But no money is actually transferred because it is a "paper transaction," Schutz said.

Schutz said one contention is that the extra \$91,004 charged by this system was not really needed for the computer to operate. The departments are expected to pay 10 per cent of the costs beyond their budgeted amounts.

The other side of the argument is that the equipment is nearly "saturated." Soon machine overloads may occur regardless of what charging system is used, he said.

# Grounds Dept. ready to battle winter

Lincoln soon will be clutched in winter's icy grip, but the people in charge of UNL buildings and grounds are taking winter preparation in stride.

"We have a few snow fences to put up, machinery to winterize and comfort covers to put on tractors," said Roy Rasmussen, director of the UNL Grounds Dept.

The Grounds Dept. also rakes leaves from flower beds before winter and removes dead trees, which might fall in a winter storm.

Rasmussen said the department tries to keep trees and shrubs watered for as long as possible in the fall.

The department fertilizes lawns and shuts off the lawn sprinkling systems before winter, he said.

The main concern of many UNL students, faculty and administrators—access to the campus after a snow storm—is handled by a fleet of equipment.

Rasmussen said the department uses two dump trucks, six to eight smaller trucks with plows, eight to ten tractors and three or four small snow blowers to clear the campus of snow.

In addition, he said, the department has two graders that can be used to clear a path into the campus if city streets around the campus are blocked.

"But I don't want to complain about the city," Rasmussen said. "They do a super job and have a lot of area to cover."

Rasmussen said the department also uses two large and four smaller front-end loaders to clear parking lots.

Snow removal can start as early as 2:30 a.m. before a school day, Rasmussen said. But he said with this year's pinched budget, his men will not be working overtime and "some of the corners (of the parking lots) might have to wait."

Rasmussen said there are 35 full-time Grounds Dept. employees, 15 student employees and five temporary employees.

The Grounds Dept. budget for this fiscal year is \$546,841.

The main concern with winterizing buildings is draining, valving and adding anti-freeze to air-handling units.

"Other than that, the coming of winter is not that big a deal for us," said Harley Schrader, director of the UNL Physical Plant.

Several East Campus cooling towers also are drained and cleaned in the winter, Schrader said.

The university gets gas on an interruptible service basis, Schrader said. Interruptible service means the university can burn gas as long as the gas companies primary customers have enough to burn.

When the weather turns colder and gas demand becomes greater, the university is told to quit using gas and must switch to oil, Schrader said.

"Of course, we'd like to burn gas because it's cheaper than oil by about one third," he said.

An exceptionally cold winter can cost the university about \$1 million in heating costs, Schrader said.

"During a very cold winter, we can end up having to buy over four million gallons of heating oil," he said.

The Broyhill and Sheldon fountains are shut down and drained before winter, he said. Although the Broyhill fountain north of the Nebraska Union has a built-in heat exchanger and is designed to operate in temperatures as low as zero degrees, the exchanger has not been used for several years.

Schrader said he likes to keep the fountains going as long as he can.


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