



Daily Nebraskan Photo
Miles Tommeraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance.



Daily Nebraskan Photo
Marvin Massengale, vice chancellor-institute of agriculture.



Photo by Kevin Higley
Ron Gierhan, acting vice chancellor for student affairs.



Daily Nebraskan Photo
Adam Breckenridge, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Administrators relate their wages to job market

By George Miller

The rule of the market place seems to determine the salaries of NU administrators, but improvement still is needed in salaries, according to some of those administrators.

"We ought to look at demands nationally for positions we are trying to fill," said Steven Sample, NU executive vice president for academic affairs. "You look at the national demands (for administrators) and the national salaries paid."

Yet both Miles Tommeraasen, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, and Ron Gierhan, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, said salaries in their departments at UNL do not compare favorably with salaries in similar departments in other Big 8 Conference schools.

Tommeraasen said administrative salaries in his department are "either at the bottom or next to the bottom" in the Big 8 and are "rarely in the upper half."

Gierhan said a study of other student affairs admin-

istrators' salaries in Big 8 and Big 10 schools comparable to UNL show that salaries at Nebraska are "average or below average."

Competition mixed

He said salaries of the NU vice chancellor for student affairs and of deans in the department are "fairly competitive" with other schools. However, "middle management salaries" (salaries of persons in the student affairs department who report to the deans and directors) rank in the lower half of the Big 8.

"When people say that administrators are overpaid," Gierhan said, "they often only look at the top positions. They don't look at the middle management level."

He said he did not believe NU administrators are overpaid.

"They (salaries) certainly don't stand out compared to other schools," Gierhan said.

Gierhan said the only way administrators and faculty could get more money for salaries was if the Unicameral

voted more money for them or if university programs were cut and this money diverted to salaries.

"But I don't think there are any other programs we'd want to cut back," he said.

Qualifications differ

But the administrators said that the difference between salaries for administrators and salaries for teachers is a difference in qualifications, backgrounds and jobs.

Ned Hedges, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, said if a position pays more than another position, it might be because of different duties that go along with the job.

Tommeraasen said it is a common complaint of faculty members that administrators are paid too much.

"No faculty can tell why they have to have administrators at all," he said.

Gierhan agreed, saying "there's always this type of banter between the faculty area and administrators.

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