

Exon: UNL-UNO money quarrels harm university

By Janet Lliteras

The state capital should be as far removed as possible from settling internal affairs at UNL, Gov. J. James Exon said Tuesday.

Exon, during a fire-side chat at the Alumni House, told about 30 students he favored giving the NU Board of Regents one lump sum of money after reviewing their recommendations for the budget.

"Let them divide the money up as they see fit," he said. "Regents are elected by the people to run the university system." The governor should not be involved in internal affairs, such as the selection of department heads, he said, adding that this is a function of the regents.

Exon also talked about parity between UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"I think we should quit fighting the war," he said. The real mission of the university is to teach students," but, he added, it seems the two schools are always quarreling between themselves—usually over money.

"It hurts the overall University of Nebraska system to have a quarrel between UNO and UNL," he said. "The mission of the two campuses should be defined and understood."

Exon explained that the merger of UNO into the NU system was probably a political decision, since UNO's role was that of an "urban university." However, he pointed out that more cooperation and coordination of the two universities was expected when the decision was made to merge.

Unfortunately, instead of coordination, he said, people have come to think of the system as two universities.

He said a mistake was made when they named the two campuses University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Omaha. It should have been named "University of Nebraska, Lincoln campus and Omaha campus," he said.

Other matters discussed were the possibility of having too many graduate assistants teaching introductory courses, what was called the horror of being taught by a computer, as in Psychology 170 and having to buy three new books for the same class three consecutive semesters.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Gov. J. James Exon greets members of the Student Alumni Board Tuesday during a fire-side chat at Alumni House.

Regent scholars now facing tougher requirements

The criteria for Regents Scholarships has been made more stringent by the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee. The cumulative grade average requirement for those scholarships was raised from 2.75 to 3.5 and the per semester grade requirement was dropped.

The committee, made up of three students and seven faculty members, has sole control over scholarship requirements, according to committee member and ASUN representative Steve Wheeler.

The new requirements will not be retroactive, according to Wheeler, but were changed to reflect the current

program. Wheeler said current recipients are not required to keep up the type of grades that made them eligible to receive the scholarships.

Originally, the scholarships are awarded to high school seniors on the basis of graduating class rank. One hundred scholarships are awarded each year. Those are the largest number of scholarships awarded at the university.

"The regents scholarships are the most prestigious offered," he said. "We felt the scholarship should not lose prestige once they are awarded by allowing people with a lower average to keep them."

He said he didn't think the averages would be hard to maintain "for exceptional students and should act as an incentive for them."

"By raising the grade requirements we (the committee) thought the scholarship could conceivably be offered to more students," he said. "After the scholarship is lost by a

student who can't maintain the average, it is awarded to an alternate."

To qualify for an alternate Regents Scholarship, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average and take at least 24 credit hours of classes a year. The alternates are awarded for only one year and recipients must reapply each year.

By raising the grade requirement, Wheeler said, the committee thought the scholarship recipients would be put on the same level with alternates. Although the committee didn't have any specific information, he said the university's current requirements were one of the lowest.

According to UNL records, the higher qualifications also may make the scholarship more exclusive. Although 1975-76 UNL cumulative average is 3.016, an all time high, the semester average totals dropped for the first time in five years. The fall semester university average was 3.034 while the spring average was 3.026.

Search continues for NU president; three are asked

Although NU Board of Regents members Ed Schwartzkopf and Robert Koefoot said they knew of no further progress in the search for a new NU president, board chairman James Moylan said three people have been contacted and have shown interest in the position.

Declining to name the three, he said the regents have talked to candidates but haven't received any responses.

"At the present time we have nobody that has accepted," Moylan said. The Regents will choose an interim president if no one has been found to replace NU President D. B. Varner by his Jan. 1 resignation.

Moylan said he hoped to find someone who at least indicated he would like the post by Jan. 1, but Moylan said he didn't know if this would happen.

Moylan said the only candidates considered have come from the list submitted by the search committee.

He said there has been no delay in the search process following the election.

Koefoot and Schwartzkopf agreed that the search would be discussed at the next regent meeting Saturday.

Schwartzkopf said some "fairly rapid action" would have to be taken to fill the NU post.

He said a moratorium on the search had been called for the election and that nothing has been done after this.

The moratorium was called because four regents were up for reelection and board members decided that presidential candidates might not want to make any decisions without knowing the status of the board.

Surveys report low UNL costs

UNL's tuition is comparable to other Big 8 Conference schools despite the more than 11 per cent increase this fall, said Bob Lovitt, UNL comptroller for business and finance.

"There won't necessarily be a big difference in comparing the costs of other Big 8 schools," Lovitt said. "When compared to the Eastern schools, we're cheap."

When considering tuition increases, Lovitt said, UNL administrators account for both sides of the situation.

"We not only want to stay in competition with other colleges, but we want to pay the bills, too." Paying the bills has priority, he added.

With this year's increase, UNL joins 48 other universities that charge an average of more than \$2,000 for tuition, fees and room and board, Lovitt said.

But NU still is less expensive than the national median charged for tuition and fees, according to a study of 119 schools by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

The study reported that out-of-state residents are charged \$1,296 in tuition a year (two 12-hour semesters), \$54 less than the national median. UNL resident tuition of \$480 a year is \$15 less than the national median, the study said.

In the comparisons, the average UNL student fee bill of \$126 was \$34 less than the national average.

But room and board of \$1,400 is higher than the national average by \$80, the study said.

Inflation was the main reason for tuition and fees increases in the national study. Salary increases were the second most important reasons for the increases.

UNL establishes its room and board rates based on predicted food service and maintenance costs, Lovitt said.

According to the national survey, UNL ranks third in the Big 8 in charges assessed against out-of-state students and fourth in charges assessed against residents.

The University of Colorado charges the highest for tuition, fees and room and board of any Big 8 school for both residents and nonresidents.

UNL rates second to Colorado in room and board costs in the conference.

Big 8 resident and nonresident tuition and room and board, according to Lovitt: Colorado, resident tuition \$289; non resident \$580; room and board, \$1,572; Iowa State University, resident tuition, \$292, nonresident, \$727; room and board \$1,095; Kansas State University, resident tuition, \$205, nonresident, \$600; room and board, \$1,120; Kansas University, resident tuition, \$205, nonresident \$600, room and board, \$1,215; University of Missouri, resident tuition, \$300, nonresident, \$900; room and board, \$1,220; Nebraska, resident tuition, \$240, nonresident, \$648; room and board, \$1,225; University of Oklahoma, resident tuition, \$232; nonresident, \$731; room and board, \$1,217; Oklahoma State University, resident tuition, \$213; nonresident, \$668; room and board, \$1,100.