

# Effect of plan to improve education questioned

By Janet Fix

The NU Five-Year plan, *Toward Excellence II*, to improve the quality of education has not yet been successful in reaching some of its goals, according to a UNL faculty member.

Paul Olson, professor of English and director of a federal study commission on undergraduate education, said some persons have questioned the effectiveness of the program.

The academic planning committee asked Olson to help with the budgeting format section of the Five-Year plan when it was being drawn.

"Many students are not even aware there is such a document, while there has been some argument between faculty members whether the plan is even operating," he said.

The Five-Year Plan was adopted by the NU Board of Regents in January, 1973 and updated in 1974. The document sets some guidelines and goals to assist the university administration, the three campuses and the regents in reaching a level of excellence during 1975-80.

The plan places emphasis on several areas including the improvement of staff development, the quality of under-

graduate education and techniques for evaluation of effective teaching.

## Goals

The plan's goals also include development of a system of rewards for excellence in teaching through salary increases, promotion, peer recognition and a program of professional development.

Olson said about one-half to two-thirds of the institutions use this type of planning system to meet goals, and it is about the only way to meet demands of campuses.

But the problem with such a system is it "leads to a lot of paperwork and no action," Olson said.

Part of the plan has been implemented well, Olson said but other areas have shown very slow or no improvement.

The Five-Year plan has set up and developed areas of excellence, Olson said. The UNL areas of excellence are Life Sciences, Music and Journalism.

But, the first priority of the university is in undergraduate education, Olson said.

"And improvements in this area have been very slow," Olson said. "Hopefully by the end of the Five-Year program more will be accomplished."

Continued on p. 9

## daily nebraskan

monday, march 28, 1977 vol. 100 no. 95 lincoln, nebraska

## Budget seeks tuition, tax boosts

By Paula Dittrick

NU's proposed fiscal 1977-78 budget includes boosts in student tuition and state tax support funds, according to NU officials presenting the budget request to the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee during a session of three-day public hearings last week.

Interim NU President Ronald Roskens told senators the budget includes a 5 per cent tuition increase for most students and a higher percentage hike for medical students.

Roskens said, "A commitment to faculty development means, among other things, continuing to improve the salary levels for faculty members so that our faculty salaries will be competitive with those paid at comparable institutions."

### Slight progress

Noting only "slight progress toward that goal," he said NU ranks "11.13 per cent below peer group schools" for 1976-77.

Greg Johnson, chairman of the ASUN Government Liaison Committee, asked senators to grant the faculty salary increase. He said NU costs are "pressing students to the limit."

He mentioned the proposed tuition hike, adding that NU tuition ranks first or second highest of schools in the Big 8 Conference.

Johnson said NU is considering an increase of student fees, which he claimed might amount to as much as \$11 more a semester.

The budget request for UNL includes increased state funding from \$50.9 million to \$60 million. Of the \$4.8 million tagged for new or improved programs, almost \$4 million would go to the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The agriculture improvement funds would raise the institute's general fund budget from \$15.2 million to \$20.1 million.

UNL Chancellor Roy Young noted that the \$4 million would meet the approximate midpoint of a recommendation by a study committee Gov. J. James Exon appointed two years ago.

This committee concluded that more than \$8 million would be needed to boost agricultural program support to "a level in keeping with the present importance of agriculture in Nebraska and the potential for further development," Young said.

The institute developed its request with the aid of the Ag-40 Group, which represents agricultural and agribusiness organizations.

Ag-40 Group Chairman John Klouterman of David City said the consultation represents industry's effort to raise institute funding "to the level of the very best in the United States."

Committee discussion about parity was prompted when Interim University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Chancellor Herbert Garfinkel told senators the request includes \$500,000 in parity money.

NU's budget request calls for \$111.9 million state funds compared to this year's \$94.6 million state funds. An 8.5 per cent faculty salary increase is included in the budget request.

### Comparable support

"Parity means comparable support for comparable programs," by insuring equality for students and not equality for all programs, he said.

"Every NU student is entitled to the best opportunities possible regardless of campuses," Garfinkel said.

The 1976-77 budget provided \$300,000 of parity funding for UNL.

Utica Sen. Douglas Bereuter said "money spent should be toward comparable quality" rather than comparable

funding.

Adding that he did not think a funding formula could apply, Bereuter said "comparable funding may not be the answer." He said class size and available equipment are among the factors needed to be considered in parity funding.

Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler suggested he may try to delay additional parity funding until the appropriation committee completes its study of parity after the 1977 session.

Committee members also commented on the central administrative system, which supervises operations at UNL, UNO and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

NU's request seeks \$4.5 million for the system's general budget, compared to its present budget of about \$3.8 million.

Omaha Regent Kermit Hansen agreed to Waverly Sen. Jerome Warner's request that Hansen suggest a review of the central system's structure at the April NU Board of Regents meeting.

### Review costs

Hansen estimated a study of a systems review by outside consultants would cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000. Calling himself a supporter of a strong central system, Hansen proposed NU would become "three separate universities" without a central office.

Roskens told Warner he already has proposed what he termed "a penetrating and dispassionate" study of the structure. He said he hopes to have a specific proposal prepared within two months.

Exon has suggested slashing budget appropriations for the systems office. Fowler asked what the affect of a \$1 million cut in the central administration budget would be.

Roskens said such a cut would "virtually eliminate" coordination between campuses, as well as staff assistance for regents and planning efforts.

He suggested the cut would lead to unnecessary duplication and more competition between campuses.

State budget analyst Harlow Hyde attended the hearing Monday and said he came on his own time representing himself. He urged senators to consider the needs of Nebraska and not increase the amount of state funding appropriated for higher education, especially NU funding.

Hyde sent a 10-page letter to all state senators last January listing his budget suggestions concerning higher education.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Utica Sen. Douglas Bereuter

## Officials: no warfare study evidence

By Barbara Lutz

NU officials say they cannot find evidence to support a report that the university was involved in germ warfare projects in the 1950s.

UNL Chancellor Roy Young said if there was such a project, "it was probably related to food production."

It was possible that information related to biological plant disease control and the impact of climate on seed products could be used for offensive or defensive purposes, he said.

A recent report indicated that NU conducted two biological warfare projects for the army in the 1950s. A controversial two-volume report, *U.S. Army Activity in the U.S. Biological Warfare Programs*, said NU was one of 88 universities working under contracts, and at one time there were more than 300 contracts being worked on by universities.

Most projects were discontinued by 1969 by orders from then-President Richard Nixon. Activities, not at NU specifically, included simulated bacteria attacks on American cities and the development of protective gas masks, the report said.

Young said none of this came to light before probably because "no one published the list before." NU continually does many kinds of research for the government, he said.

"I know of two or three projects done at other places that were carried out on other plant diseases," he said.

Reportedly, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and Iowa State University also did biological warfare research.

"I'm sure it could not have been confidential," Young said. "Universities don't usually enter in confidential research unless they are the only one with that (research capability)." NU cannot become involved in confidential research, he said, because details of such agreements must be published.

Francis Haskins, UNL agronomy professor, said, "I'm sure it wasn't done in our department." Haskins said the first he heard of germ warfare projects at NU was in the newspaper.

The Agronomy Dept. does research for government agencies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), he said. There are USDA employees in the Agronomy Dept., Haskins said, and some research is financed by USDA.

UNL chemistry Prof. Norman Cromwell said he was unaware of any germ warfare projects.

"There are two possibilities," he said, "the (University of Nebraska) Medical Center, who won't tell you anything, and (what used to be the) Microbiology Dept."

Carl Georgi, retired UNL microbiology professor, said "the first thing I knew (of the germ warfare projects) is what I read in the paper."

Georgi said he was abroad from 1951 to 1952, but "I assure you nothing was done in the department of bacteriology."

"According to (Vice chancellor for academic affairs Adam) Breckenridge, there is no record of warfare projects," Georgi said. "That appalls me. Something of that sort ought to be recorded somewhere."

## monday

News: The first of a four-part series on landlord-tenant relations investigates terminating leases ..... p. 5  
Entertainment: Lincoln Police are tightening the reins on Pershing Municipal Auditorium concert surveillance ... p. 9  
Sports: The Huskers will start spring football practice today with a few familiar faces missing ..... p. 10