

Renovation of old classrooms still a year away

By Gail Stork
UNL students must "hang in there" another year before they can expect improvements in old classrooms, even though their renovation is high on the priority list for capital expenditures.

Among the improvements that will come by the fall of 1978 are paint, drapes, new seating and acoustics.

These "facility improvements" are second on the list of priorities prepared by NU officials under President Ronald Roskens for approval by the NU Board of Regents.

"Think of the worst classroom you've had and it's probably on the list," said Robert Pazderka, capital construction coordinator.

Utility improvements

He said the facility improvements are the highly visible projects on the list, but the top priority item, utility improvements, will not be noticeable to most students. He said storm sewers, increased air conditioning capacity, high voltage circuits and a new water chiller are among the proposed utility projects.

The priority list is:

Utility improvements for UNL and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, facility improvements on all campuses, safety requirements on all campuses, renovation of the agricultural engineering building at Lincoln, conversion of the old Epley Library at UNO to offices, renovation of the old College of Nursing at the Medical Center, renovation of Bessey Hall at Lincoln and land acquisition at all campuses.

The \$26 million requested for the construction program's first year will be aimed at renovation and remodeling rather than new

buildings, Pazderka said. Regent Chairman Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff said the board had already recommended to Roskens that there be no new construction in the budget this year.

Pazderka said Roskens also favored the "let's not ask for the world" approach and agreed that existing buildings should be taken care of first. He added that

because of the remodeling emphasis, the program is the least expensive in four or five years.

Requests limited

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln cited the federal legislation requiring building accessibility for the handicapped, safety regulations, and energy consciousness as reasons for the remodeling thrust.

"With these external

pressures outside of our own needs, we need to take a hard look at which direction to go," he said.

Pazderka said the priorities were determined through a four month "procession of need." He said the requirements indicated by each campus, a total of 35 requests, were integrated into one list by the committee.

After checks with each

campus and revisions by the regents, the list is ready for final approval and then recommendation to Governor J. James Exon and the Legislature, he said.

"This will be the third time they (the regents) have seen the list," Pazderka said. "They've basically agreed to the projects and priorities."

Even with the regent's approval, there is no guaran-

tee the project will be accepted by the Legislature, Pazderka said.

Pazderka and Schwartzkopf agreed that the Legislature will definitely not fund the total request.

"We never get what we ask for totally," Pazderka said. And, according to Schwartzkopf, the university could not handle all that money in one year if it did.

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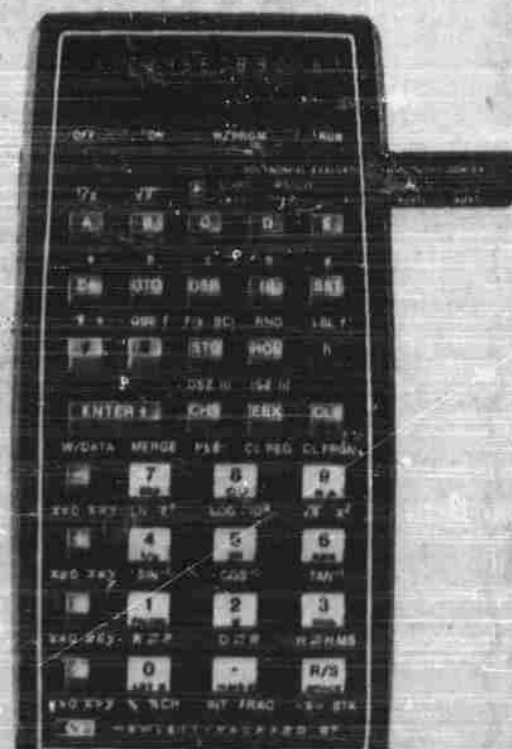
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