

Moratorium freezes allocations to Areas of Excellence

By Todd Hergert

A freeze on additional funding requests for 1978 should have little impact on NU's Areas of Excellence programs, according to Dick Johnson, program coordinator.

But, the programs, designed to launch certain NU academic areas into national prominence, will not receive any more funds during the moratorium than they received last year during the moratorium.

The freeze on additional funds will

not affect the excellence programs, Johnson said, because of the pre-planned nature of the programs.

"The programs are goal-oriented. Each academic area in the program decided its goal and requested the funds they needed to achieve that goal over a year ago. There were never any plans for expanding the program," Johnson said.

The moratorium on additional funding

requests excludes new programs in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and salary increase requests.

The freeze is not directed specifically at Areas of Excellence programs, said Bob Lovitt, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance.

Bill Swanson, vice president of governmental relations at UNL, said the NU Board of Regents declared the moratorium to allow NU additional funding-emphasis for faculty salaries.

"Our studies show that UNL faculty salaries are way below average, and improving salaries is the number one priority on this year's budget," Swanson said.

Johnson said he is not worried about the freeze because the Areas of Excellence program does not want to expand.

The program is designed to build specific academic programs which were strong at UNL into exceptional programs on the national level, he said.

Not every area can be exceptional, Johnson said, and efforts to expand the number of excellence programs would only dilute its overall influence.

The UNL Areas of Excellence programs are in architecture, chemistry, life sciences, animal sciences, crop physiology, water resources management, non-traditional education, journalism and music.

Letter drive against tuition increase 'ineffective'

A letter-writing campaign urging parents to contact the NU Board of Regents about a proposed tuition increase has had little effect, according to Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Chairman Mike Herman.

"I had hoped for much better than what came out of the mailing," he said.

Herman spoke to the NU Board of Regents Jan. 15 about the tuition increase, but said he had little impact. He attributed part of this to a lack of response from the mailing.

Approximately 300 letters were sent to parents of freshmen and sophomores at the end of last semester. Besides explaining the proposed \$22.50 tuition rate and UNL

faculty's low salaries, the letters urged parents to write their local regent about the issue.

Herman said GLC should have sent more letters and should have informed each parent which regent to contact.

ASUN President Greg Johnson said the committee has not evaluated the campaign's effect, but he added the campaign may have had organizational problems.

"It wasn't a scientific mailing list," Johnson said. "We just ran them from the (Builders) Buzz Book. We had problems because we didn't have a method and a particular group of people as a goal. How-

ever, we were not after a conditioned response."

"It's the first time we've tried to do something like this (the letters)," Herman said. He added that the GLC probably will try the mailings again later this year and ask parents to contact state senators and regents about the issue.

The mailings are part of a six-part plan to combat the tuition hike. The plan included a Dec. 6 news conference, the letter to parents, an ASUN resolution unanimously passed against the raise, a speech to the regents, letters to students and the Daily Nebraskan, and communication with the Nebraska Legislature.

ASUN delays position paper

Presentation of a position paper supporting mandatory student fees was delayed one week at Wednesday's ASUN meeting for revisions.

The paper, to be presented by President Greg Johnson will counter opinions voiced by some members of the NU Board of Regents stating that student fees benefit only a few students, Johnson said.

Line A funds which support organizations and activities such as ASUN, the Daily Nebraskan, and guest speaker programs make possible a wide range of activities "students could not possibly afford on their own," Johnson said.

During Wednesday's open forum outgoing Union Advisory Board President Dave Roehr addressed the senate in what he termed his "state of the (Nebraska) Union message to the senate."

He reported that the Union Advisory Board has adopted a new set of bylaws giving the new Nebraska Union Board, "a decision-making power."

He also said that the long-range planning task force for the union has hired a college union evaluation group to prepare a detailed survey of services to be administered either this semester or next fall.

In other reports, first vice president Charles Fellingham reported that the survey of library services has been approved by the library staff and the educational psychology department and is now being printed, and should be distributed shortly.

In ASUN voting Senator Mike Herman was elected by acclamation as speaker pro tempore of the senate, replacing Bill Skoneki who resigned for "academic reasons."

Four students were also elected to fill vacant Senate seats for the remainder of the term.

Unanimously elected were Dan Lamprecht for the College of Agriculture, Brian Mummaugh for Arts and Sciences, and Mike Nolan for the Graduate College. Susan Rath also was elected from Teacher's College.

Four vacancies remain to be filled, while one senator was not present for installation.

The Senate was again plagued by quorum problems this week, as senators drifted in and out throughout the meeting, despite a call of the house requiring senators to stay in the room during the meeting.

At one point, Kirk Kuhlman was brought in from another meeting in the building to maintain a quorum.

Fee board meets

The Fees Allocation Board will meet Friday, February 3 at 3:30 p.m. in Nebraska Union 216.

The board will discuss requests for emergency funds for the UNL Crew coaching staff and the Student Bar Association.

Revised budgets and audits of the Committee also will be approved.

There will be an open forum at the end of the meeting.

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