

NU Foundation donations handled by bank investors

By Robyn Ginn

Ticker tapes, rushed calls of buy and sell, and stockbrokers in pin-striped suits may typify the New York Stock Exchange, but it is hardly the atmosphere for University of Nebraska Foundation investments.

However, the foundation does invest in 37 big name stocks including Revlon, Sears, Ford, General Electric, IBM and Bristol-Meyers, according to Herb Potter, Foundation secretary-treasurer.

Investment officers at the National Bank of Commerce and First National Lincoln scrutinize the foundation's investments daily. The foundation pays the banks about \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year to handle its investments, Potter said.

For example, if a donor gives \$10,000 to the foundation and does not specify where he wants the money invested, it is placed in a pool with other contributions.

About 45 percent is invested in stocks and 55 percent in bonds, Potter said.

This fund amounts to more than \$13.5 million, he said. Income amounts to about 6.5 percent a year, Potter said.

Although most donors do not specify how they want the money invested, 95 percent do specify how they want the income spent, Potter said. They may want it spent for scholarships, memorials or research grants, he explained.

The remaining 5 percent is distributed by the foundation's Awards and Grants Committee, he said. The committee approves or denies requests for unspecified gifts, he said.

The foundation also invests in government and corporate bonds, Potter said. These bonds pay up to 8.5 percent interest and some are due as late as 2005, he said.

Potter said the foundation's assets total between \$30 and \$32 million. The total amount donated to the foundation during 1977 was \$4.2 million, according to the 1977 Roll of Donors. This is the largest amount given in one year since the foundation began 41 years ago, Potter said.

"The purpose of the foundation is to give financial support to the University of Nebraska by soliciting, receiving and administering gifts of all kinds for the benefit of the university," Potter said.

Donors are categorized according to how much money they give. The Chancellors Club has pledged a gift of at least \$10,000, the Golden Century Club has donated \$500 or more, and the Silver Century Club has donated \$250, according to the Roll of Donors.

The foundation solicits donors by letters, telephone calls and programs set up by different classes. Often possible donors are determined by past gifts. Who's Who and past publicity and are sought for a certain amount, said Ed Hirsch, vice president of public relations and development for the foundation.

In fiscal year 1976-77, the foundation spent about \$2.5 million, the largest amount, \$778,038, going to student assistance, Potter said. Assets increase about two to three million dollars every year, he added.

"The success of the foundation is measured by how much money is made available to UNL," Potter said.

The foundation also has a development fund which partly pays for operations, he said.

Gifts to NU and the foundation rank highest in the Big Eight, Hirsch said.

Summer enrollment to equal 1977

Summer session officials project that enrollment in UNL's three summer sessions will be close to 14,000, the number enrolled last summer.

William Sesow, associate director of summer sessions said students should be aware that early registration still is underway for the second session.

Sixty special workshops, some for credit, will be offered this summer to address current topics, Sesow said. He said

the workshops will be coordinated like courses, but will give students and faculty an opportunity to apply their knowledge to current topics more than classes allow.

Bilingual Awareness Education in cooperation with the Houston public schools will be offered this summer for the first time, he said. The program is part of a larger bilingual education program, Sesow said.

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