

Proposed UNL budget-tuition increase



Executive Vice President of the Administration, William Erskine photo by Ted Kirk

The University of Nebraska administration will ask the NU Board of Regents to approve a proposed 1980-81 operating budget which calls for a state fund increase of \$22.7 million, according to a university report.

The report, prepared by the office of the Executive Vice President of Administration calls for a total increase of \$30 million for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Tuition hike

Included in the \$30 million is a \$6 million increase in the cash fund, which would include a 10 percent increase in tuition rates. The tuition increase would affect resident and non-resident rates.

The regents will be offered three proposed alternatives. Proposals A and B call for total increase of \$30 million. Proposal C calls for an \$29 million increase.

All three proposals also call for 25 percent increase in the College of Medicine and College of Dentistry, a 20 percent increase is asked for in the College of Dentistry.

According to Alan Moeller, NU interim budget director, the increased tuition rates are necessary to offset inflation. It has been the feeling of the university administration for the past five years that tuition rates should reflect the rate of inflation, he said. This increase hasn't kept up with the rate of inflation, he added.

A 10 percent rise in tuition will bring resident tuition up from \$24 per credit hour to \$26.40. The non-resident rate will increase from \$65 per credit hour to \$71.50.

Figures available for the 1978-79 school year show the university's tuition rates to be the second highest in the big eight, surpassed only by Colorado.

Keep people out

In a news release from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, President Bud Cuca said the tuition rise combined housing costs and the rate of inflation, will keep many people from going to the university.

Since 1975 tuition rates for resident students have increased 46.6 percent and the non-resident rate has increased 51.2 percent, according to Cuca's letter.

Because of continued rising tuition costs, students have held student fee budget request increases down to 3.7 percent, Cuca stated.

"We challenge university officials to exercise the same fiscal conservatism that students have exhibited and hold the line on tuition."

Students might have qualms about a 5 percent increase, the letter stated, but students would be more ready to accept the smaller increase.

The state legislature will also be asked to supply an additional \$22 million.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf said he does not always agree with the philosophy of raising tuition rates just because the state has been asked to increase its funding.

"I am always reluctant to go along with a tuition increase," Schwartzkopf said.

However, Schwartzkopf said he believes that students should be made to carry their share of the financial burden.

William Erskine, Executive Vice President for the Administration, said the proportion of the budget paid by tuition has decreased for the past few years.

Piece together

Total increases for UNL campuses are \$15 million. Of the \$15 million, \$6 million will go increased salaries.

The regents can approve the proposed budget or cut and piece it together until they come up with a plan to send to the governor.

Cuca said he was not happy the proposal was announced late because ASUN had little time to prepare for the regents meeting.

Moeller said the time of the announcement was not unusual and that it could not come any later because the proposed budget must be on the governors desk by September 15.

J-School autonomy to be discussed

The NU Board of Regents, Saturday, at morning committee meetings, will discuss a proposal to make the UNL School of Journalism a free-standing administrative unit.

The school currently is part of the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal would give the school autonomy as a separate unit and it would become a college.

Neale Copple, journalism school director, said the journalism faculty officially asked for the autonomy last year. The journalism faculty support the separation unanimously, he said.

The regents, under their bylaws, cannot act on the proposal until their September meeting.

The regents will also be asked to approve plans for the restoration of the Temple Theatre Arts building at UNL.

Originally, the program statement approved in November by the board, incorporated new construction and restoration. However, according to the proposal

sponsored by Robert Lovitt, acting vice chancellor for business and finance, the funds provided by the legislature only allows for the restoration.

The board will also discuss the proposed regional veterinary school during the morning meetings. Administrators want advice concerning planning the school which would be located at UNL, according to William Erskine, executive vice president for administration.

Regent Rogert Prokop of Wilbur has also asked for discussion of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resource's relationship to the Ag 40, a support group composed of the state's agricultural leaders.

The board will also be asked to approve the design for the Animal Holding Facility at UNL and authorize the Chairman of the Business Affairs Committee, the Vice President for Administration and the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance to award contracts to the low construction bidders for the project.

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Secretary denied time at meeting

By Gordon Johnson

NU Regent Chairman Robert Koefoot has denied a former UNL student the chance to appear before the NU Board of Regents at its Saturday morning meeting, but at least one regent feels she should be given a chance to speak.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln, said he felt Marianne Davidson has some information the regents should hear.

Davidson alleged that Dobson violated university bylaws when he missed 20 percent of his classes during the summer of 1978. Davidson also claimed that Dobson used university materials for a study for the Cattle National Bank in Seward.

Davidson first tried to bring her allegations to the regents at the June meeting. The regents wouldn't let her appear because the time slot was originally allocated to former UNL student Robert McCoy of Hastings, who asked to let Davidson speak in his place.

Davidson wrote a letter to the board requesting 30 minutes to present her information to the board.

Personal vendettas

Koefoot said he turned down Davidson's request because he did not think the regents meetings are the place to carry on personal vendettas.

"Evidently she must have a personal vendetta or she wouldn't be doing the things she has done," he said.

Another reason for the appearance denial is because she has not gone through proper channels to correct the problem, he said.

Davidson should have first gone through the university administration instead of the regents to get an answer to her problems, he said.

Besides, Koefoot said, the board has other things to do than go over the charges again.

"This has been discussed before and I see no reason to continue discussing it," he said.

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A lesson in primitive pottery making. For story and more photos see page 8. photo by Gordon Johnson