daily nebraskan

Closing could cause unpaid vacations

By Gordon Johnson

If a plan to close the university between semesters is put into effect, full-time employees may be forced to take four-day vacations or an unpaid leave, according to Roy Loudon, administrator of personnel and risk management.

In order to save money, the university has proposed that the campuses be closed during the Christmas break. According to university officials, an announcement of whether the plan will be put into effect will be made on Oct. 15.

Robert Lovitt, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance, said the closing could save the university about \$50,000.

Loudon said that under such a plan, employees will be out of work for 10 days. However, six of the ten days will be taken as state holidays, he said. State statute allows for 11 paid holidays a year, but university employees are not always able to take the holidays when the rest of the state does, Loudon said.

Since university employees cannot take their holidays when the holidays occur, state law allows the university to reschedule them.

The other four days remaining can be taken off the employee's vacation time, or the employee can take a leave of four days without pay, Loudon said.

Loudon said he has heard a few complaints from employees, but the response to such a plan generally has been good.

It is not clear how many people will be left to work during the break, but Loudon said he expects it will be only a skeletal staff.

Security, mailroom, payroll, and power plant personnel are among those who will have to stay, Loudon said.



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