

# Faculty Senate committee: UNL budget growth slow

By Val Swinton

Some members of the UNL faculty think UNO and the Medical Center are getting a bigger piece of the NU budgetary pie than the Lincoln campus.

A UNL Faculty Senate budget committee report indicates that, while NU has undergone "phenomenal growth" in past decade, UNO and medical center budgets have increased at a much faster rate than UNL's budget.

Professor Craig R. MacPhee, chairman of the budget committee, said UNL should not have to face the same type of restrictions in budget that the other campuses do.

"If there are going to be cutbacks in the general fund increases from the state because UNO and the medical center have grown so much more than us, it's their expansion that ought to be trimmed," MacPhee said.

The UNL budget, from 1970-71 to 1979-80, has increased 125 percent, according to the committee's report, while the medical center's budget increased 314 percent and UNO's budget increased 224 percent.

The Central Administrations' budget increased 835 percent in this decade.

WHILE UNO and the medical center have received larger increases, percentage-wise, than UNL, the Lincoln campus still commands the largest share of the budget.

UNL was appropriated \$65 million for the 1979-80 school year, while the Medical Center received \$31.7 million and UNO got \$17 million from state general fund tax revenues.

Randy Haack, assistant budget director for the central administration, pointed out that many functions once assigned to UNL have been shifted to other campuses.

Haack also said that UNO needed large amounts of money when it first became part of the NU system because of financial problems, which also accounted for the rapid increase in its share of the budget.

In fact, Haack said, during the past three years, budget requests and appropriations to the three campuses have been nearly identical.

Last year, he said, the UNO campus received only 2 percent more of an increase than the medical center and UNL.

"I DOUBT THAT there's any kind of conspiracy to make one campus a Cadillac and another a Volkswagen," he said.

MacPhee did not dispute Haack's figures, but said during the last four years, student credit hour production has risen 6 percent at UNL, and fallen 4 percent at UNO.

In view of those figures, MacPhee said UNL should not be forced to make cutbacks because of budget reduction.

"Of course, that means if other campuses have to cut back in order that we don't have to, then they should," he said.

MacPhee said the faculty also is not happy with the rapid growth of the central administration.

"There's a general feeling that the administration is growing like crazy," he said. "The central administration has been a vehicle for a lower UNL share of the budget and we also see the potential for duplication of services."

The central administration has been the target of three resolutions in recent weeks by the UNL faculty. Resolutions by the Teachers College and College of Arts and Science faculties call for the dissolution of the central administration structure while a resolution in the UNL Faculty Senate asked that the offices of vice-president for academic affairs and vice-president for administration be "critically examined."

That resolution will be discussed by the Faculty Senate during a meeting Tuesday.

While the administration has recommended a 15 percent increase in state appropriations in the coming year, Gov. Charles Thone has asked for a 7 percent increase.

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