

Report suggests reducing faculty pay hike

By Michelle Carr

Reduction of the proposed faculty 10 percent pay increase, elimination of state financing of the Bob Devaney Sports Complex and an examination of the NU Central Administration are possible alternatives the Legislature could make in dealing with the university budget, according to a report made by the Legislative Fiscal Office.

The report, presented the Legislature's Appropriation Committee meeting Tuesday, stated that the university's budget may have hurt the university's quality. The report said that the 1979-80 UNL budget, in reaction to inflationary pressures, consisted of combined across-the-board reductions and reductions in auxiliary functions.

Out of a nearly \$1.4 million base budget reduction, UNL cut equipment budgets and departmental computer budgets by \$800,000. The remainder of the reductions came in areas such as teaching and research councils, parking and security.

ONE PROBLEM with the university's approach to long-term cost savings, the report said, is that the university will gradually damage high priority programs and programs which may be of marginal benefit to either the institution or the state.

The report said reduction in the faculty salary increase, could save potential program cuts for the university. The report concluded that about 1,700 UNL faculty members may require no adjustment or less than a one percent change to bring average faculty salaries to the 1978-79 median market rate.

This finding was based on the fact that UNL salaries are relatively equal with the median salaries which the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education compiled. UNL based its salary increase proposal on a different study, which showed UNL considerably below the median.

UNL Chancellor Roy Young pointed out that the system used by the university is accurate because it compares salaries between instructors in a specific field at other colleges and universities, instead of simply comparing entire faculties at different colleges and universities.

In a campus-by-campus evaluation, the report suggested fund reduction alternatives and recommended that the general fund support to the Sports Center be eliminated or reduced to an amount that would "reflect a more equal sharing of operating costs."

ACCORDING TO the report, UNL's men's athletics has generated most of its own operating and facilities revenues. However, no athletic revenues are used to support the operations of the fieldhouse, the report said.

Another alternative the report recommended includes redirecting all or a portion of the state support to other areas of need such as utilities equipment or departmental computer budgets.

The report also examined the NU Central Administration and reported that all staff salaries have increased over \$600,000 during the last ten years. According to the report's figures, central administration staff salaries were \$190,507 in 1969, and \$796,701 in 1979.

Since 1969, the central administration has added a vice-president, three assistant vice-presidents, a personnel director, a general counsel and 9.82 additional supporting professional staff positions, the report said. The total professional salary budget is \$675,683, compared with a total professional salary budget of \$161,000 in 1969.

However, NU President Ronald Roskens told the committee that the central administration has three fewer employees than it did in 1974. In 1974, the administration employed 42 persons and today it employs 39, Roskens said.

FOR THE 1979-80 budget, the central administration is requesting two percent in state funds, Roskens said. Compared with other universities which operate on a similar system to NU, this figure is low, he added. The University of Missouri, which is the most similar university to the NU system, requested 8.4 in state funds in 1979, Roskens said.

Also discussed at the meeting was a possible restriction

of admissions to off-set other budgetary problems. Young told the committee unless support is increased, severe reduction in programs must occur. Effective reduction probably can be achieved only by setting an "enrollment ceiling or by restricting admissions to the university," he said.

Young noted that the NU Board of Regents has rejected an enrollment limit because the tradition of open admissions is in the best interest of the people of the state.

Young said that temporary enrollment limits, such as those instituted in the College of Engineering and the College of Business Administration, may have to be applied across UNL colleges or vertical cuts of programs will have to be made.

Haberman: LB221 has better chance

By Kathy Stokebrand

State Sen. Rex Haberman said LB221, which would raise the Nebraska drinking age to 21, has a better chance of passing this year in the Nebraska legislature because half of the state senators are up for re-election this year.

Haberman was among those speaking at the public hearing Tuesday night on LB221. The hearing was sponsored by ASUN's Government Liaison Committee.

The history of Ralph Kelly's attempts to raise the drinking age to 21 is on page 9.

The senator, from Imperial, said he has received much favorable response from the public about the bill. The large amount of public reaction to this issue might affect the stand candidates take on the issue, he added.

Haberman said he will support LB221 but it is not the real solution. The real solution, he said, is enforcing the

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Photo by Mark Billingsley

Afternoon stroll

Unseasonably warm temperatures in the mid-60s was the only reason Tony Thomson and Carol Koziol of Lincoln needed to take Tuesday afternoon off for a stroll down a picturesque bicycle lane in Pioneer's Park.

Nebraska refuses funds to enforce thermostat limits

By Rich Jurgens

Nebraska will refuse federal aid to enforce President Carter's energy conservation plan to set thermostats at 65 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.

William Palmer, Nebraska Energy Office director, said the federal government has offered aid to Nebraska, but Nebraska, like a majority of the states, has decided not to take the responsibility of enforcing the new law.

Bob Lewis, energy conservation specialist for the fed-

eral Dept. of Energy, said the Kansas City energy office would provide money to Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri to hire a delegation in each state to enforce and check if public buildings are keeping thermostats at 65 degrees.

With Carter's energy plan an individual found in violation may be fined up to \$5,000 per day in civil penalties and \$10,000 per day in criminal penalties.

Lewis said hiring state employees to check federal, state and commercial buildings is the preferred method of enforcing Carter's plan.

MISSOURI AND Iowa already have declined the federal government's offer, Lewis said.

Palmer said the amount of money to be given wasn't adequate and the law was not well thought through.

"It would be more rational to require building owners and managers to save energy," Palmer said. Turning thermostats down to 65 degrees "is out of the comfort stage," he said.

Palmer said there were hundreds of other ways to save energy. He said a typical new building, if well constructed, could be heated by overhead lights and body heat.

Palmer said the Nebraska Energy Office does not check

buildings in Nebraska to see if they are complying with Carter's plan.

Lewis said the federal government hires people to check buildings in his four-state region if the states don't check.

IF A BUILDING required to comply with the law is found in violation, he said the building is given a 10-day notice to comply.

So far, he said, no fines have been given for having buildings warmer than 65 degrees and roughly 88 percent of the buildings checked have been in compliance.

Lewis said if a fine is given, whoever controls that building would pay the fine.

Jim Hines, UNL energy conservation manager, said the maintenance department is not "the cops." Hines said either state or federal officials would have to do the enforcing.

He said the maintenance department lowered all thermostats to 65 degrees before Carter's plan was enacted.

If any fines were given at UNL, Hines said it was his understanding that whoever occupied that space would have to pay the fine.

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