

Administrators, budget request supported

By Michelle Carr

The NU Board of Regents Saturday reaffirmed its faith in the university's proposed 15 percent budget increase and the NU central administration.

Resolutions approved by the regents support a 15 percent budget increase, which is more than Gov. Charles Thone's proposed 8.57 percent increase, and support the central administration, which has come under fire by several UNL faculty groups calling for its dissolution.

The regents adopted a resolution praising Thone's flexible budget, but some expressed disapproval of the amount requested.

Thone's budget would provide the university system with a lump sum general fund appropriation of \$125.9 million and a \$1 million discretionary fund in the capital construction budget for extraordinary expenses.

Earlier, Scottsbluff Regent Robert Simmons introduced a budget resolution opposed by several regents. Simmons said Thone should be commended for giving the university "more than we expected" and said the regents should ask Thone to adopt

the 8.57 percent budget increase.

Simmons criticized

Regent Robert Koefoot of Grand Island criticized Simmons and said he was "violently opposed" to the resolution.

"I expected him (Thone) to give more," Koefoot said.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said that he was opposed to any resolution dealing with the budget. He said the requested 15 percent increase is the minimum amount needed by the university, and that the regents should be committed to the increase "just to stay even."

"We can't afford to yield at this time," he said.

Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler said Simmons' resolution will "put a lid on us." He said such action would "preclude the Legislature from swinging out a little more."

The resolution was tabled, with Simmons and Regent Robert Prokop of Wilbur voting against the tabling motion.

Administration supported

The central administration resolution

was created by a committee appointed in December to examine the UNL faculty's criticism of the administration structure. It said the regents support the central administration structure and the structure's present administrators.

Regent Koefoot Hansen of Omaha, who presented the resolution, said that the annual evaluation of the central administration personnel will continue to be the sole responsibility of the regents.

The regents recognize and reaffirm the "right of the university community to voice objections and concerns to it," Hansen said.

"The plea for a greater role by the faculty in budget preparation is understandable and efforts will be made to improve this," the resolution said. "However, the budgetary process in any organization must have one focal point of final decision and this always leads to choices and compromises. The final decisions will continue to be made by the chief executive officer and the board."

Hansen stressed that the university community should uphold the image of a quality faculty, convince taxpayers and

elected officials of the value of the university, and work together.

Misunderstandings

William Campbell, president of the UNL Faculty Senate, said there have been misunderstandings about the faculty's feelings, but it would be "a mistake to entirely dismiss the reaction of UNL faculty solely because of that."

Campbell said the faculty has "long-term feelings and deep concerns" about the central administration structure and the university budget. However, he said faculty members want to work with administrators in a more constructive way "to figure out what is best for the university."

NU President Ronald Roskens commended the university faculty, calling them "first-rate performers."

Roskens said the faculty might have gotten the impression from past comments that they are unappreciated. This assumption is false, he said, for the faculty is "deeply appreciated."

For more on the NU Board of Regents, turn to page 3.



Photo by Collin Hackley

Elaine Rod, UNL speech teacher, gives a hug to 17-month-old daughter Abby, a victim of Down's Syndrome. Rod chairs a program that offers support and information to parents of handicapped children. See story on page 6.

Thone plan for NU budget is 'disappointing' officials

By Gordon Johnson

Several Lincoln state senators, NU administrators and ASUN president Bud Cuca expressed disappointment Friday concerning what Gov. Charles Thone described as his "austere" budget recommendation for NU.

Lincoln State Sen. Shirley Marsh, a member of the Legislature's appropriation's committee, said the governor's proposed budget is not large enough and does not meet NU's needs.

Fair share

"I think they (the university) should have a fair share of the increases in the state budget," Marsh said. "I do not think that 7 percent (increase in faculty salaries) will do."

Many state senators feel that a 10 percent increase in faculty salaries would be fair, Marsh said, but added that she did not think a 10 percent increase would get final approval.

Thone recommended an 8.57 percent increase in the NU budget which includes a 7 percent increase in faculty salaries. Included in the recommendation is \$1.2 million for extraordinary utility costs.

In addition to the 8.57 percent increase, Thone recommended that \$1 million be made available to the NU Board of Regents. The Regents will have wide discretionary powers over uses of the money.

State Budget Director Don Luenberger said the extra \$1 million could be used to pay energy costs which exceed the \$1.2 million recommended to cover extraordinary energy costs.

Total budget

The governor recommended an NU budget of \$126 million for 1980-81, up from \$116 million appropriated for 1979-80. The university requested \$133.5

million.

The governor said in his state of the state address Thursday that the university must "prudently manage" its resources and that the university should not depend on state support when federal dollars are shut off.

Decreased state support of the university will definitely hurt the quality of education, said Sen. Don Wesely, of Lincoln.

Wesely said recent cutbacks in the university budget have hurt the quality of education at the university and could lead to a poor academic climate.

When faculty and students are worried about the intent of the state to support the university, the result can be demoralizing, Wesely said.

"I want economy and efficiency, but at the same time it can go too far and in the long run can cost more, he said.

Level of excellence

In order to keep the long-run cost of the university down, the state must maintain a high level of academic excellence, instead of letting it run down and then trying to catch up, Wesely said.

Continued on Page 15

inside monday

Tractor tug-of-war: The director of UNL's Tractor Testing Laboratory said the order to quit testing Soviet tractors will have little effect. . . . Page 8
Sell, spot, sell: The making of local commercials is explored. . . . Page 10
Mizzou massacre: UNL's basketball team dropped to 1-1 in the Big Eight after facing nationally-ranked Missouri in Lincoln Saturday. . . . Page 12