

NU budget bill passes; governor's OK pending

LB999, which contains the NU operating budget, cleared the last legislative hurdle Tuesday and was sent to the governor for approval with a vote of 43-2.

LB999 would appropriate \$131.3 million to NU. The university requested \$133.5 million in state support and Gov. Charles Thone recommended that \$125.9 million be approved for fiscal year 1980-81.

The bill, which passed without debate, would give \$2.1 million to the NU Central Administration; \$48.3 million to UNL City Campus; \$21.2 million to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; \$655,000 to the Bob Devaney Sports Center; \$19.6 million to UNO and \$38 million to the NU Medical Center.

The Legislature decided to appropriate

\$27,814 to study the merits of creating a veterinary college compared to those of giving Nebraska residents state support to attend out of state schools.

The total university appropriation represents a 12.57 percent increase over last year.

The appropriation for last year was \$115.9 million. Included in another appropriations bill this year was \$483,000 that would be added to this year's budget base to cover utility deficits. When this amount is subtracted from the appropriation, general fund support would increase only 11 percent.

Total operations and state aid to the university would be \$198.5 million, up 11 percent from this year's budget. This figure includes all sources of revenue except restricted federal funds.

Three regent candidates agree on budget revision

By Patti Gallagher

Editor's note: This is the first in a series on candidates for the NU Board of Regents.

Three former UNL students—now two lawyers and a rancher's wife—who are vying for a seat on the NU Board of Regents, agree that the university's budget needs revisions and that faculty salaries should receive some of the excess from these revisions.

According to Donn Raymond of Gering, "Their (faculty) pay is of the top priority. 'You can have all the buildings you want,' he said, 'but if you don't have the professors they are to no avail.'"

Raymond, 49, who practices law in Scottsbluff, says he has been vitally interested in the university since earning his two UNL degrees: a bachelor's degree in 1955 and a juris doctor degree in 1958.

"I strongly feel that the University of Nebraska is the heartbeat of the state," Raymond said.

Raymond said the coming years are going to be "trying times" for the Regents because of double digit inflation. Inflation and taxes necessitate cuts from the NU budget, he said.

Raymond said he thinks Gov. Charles Thone's voluntary 7 percent limit on state spending should be applied to the university budget.

He called deficient faculty salaries a serious problem and said that a 7 or 8 percent spending lid may have to be allocated to salaries alone.

Raymond said that recent distress in faculty-regent relations is a result of salaries. He said he thought the faculty had the right to form a collective bargaining group. Discussion of UNL faculty joining the American Association of University Professors began last fall.

Raymond said that he is against imposing entrance exams on incoming students. The role of the three non-voting student regents should remain the same, he said, adding that he is open to discussion.

Regent candidate Judy Imig disagrees about the role of student regents. Three of the 43-year-old mother's five children are enrolled at UNL. Because the student regents do not vote, she said, "students don't carry much weight with the regents."

Imig said she'd like to see each of the student regents get a vote, but she said the first step might be to give them one collective vote.

Imig attended UNL in 1954 and is now involved with her husband in a family ranching business 17 miles north of Thedford. The 32-county District Six is nearly

half of the state, she said, but because the district is primarily in the panhandle, tax payers there feel quite far removed from the university.

Imig said the most important issues are open vs. closed university admissions (she advocates open), budget problems and the central administration.

"It seems that at the central administration level, it is top heavy," she said. Imig said she would support cutting some positions, therefore being able to increase faculty salaries.

A third regent candidate, Harold Kay of North Platte, agrees that faculty salaries are not sufficient.

"A real effort should be made to get the best faculty possible—to get the best education possible," Kay said.

He said that some segments of the university budget might be spread a little bit too thin. By beefing up successful programs, she said, faculty would be attracted and could be paid more.

Kay said that he does not oppose efforts by the faculty to form a bargaining faction because "you can't just deal with one professor."

"I figure if they want to be represented by someone that's their business," he said.

Kay, 53, is a 1952 graduate of the NU Law School. He practiced law in Omaha from 1952 to 54, and has been a lawyer in North Platte since then.

Kay has served on numerous school boards and committees, including the NU President's Advisory Council, the NU Foundation, and the North Platte Board of Education. He also ran for a position on the Board of Regents six years ago, he said, losing to current regent Robert Raun by four votes.

"With the experience I have had in education I think that I can have a better communication with the university, including students and faculty, than we have right now," he said.

Kay said he would like to see the regents' monthly meetings be conducted across the state to improve communication. He also suggested that UNL's Student Union would be a good site for regents' meetings to gain better student-regent relations.

Kay said that the student regents are a "bridge between the students and the regents." Because of student regents' one-year terms and because they are not elected and do not represent a large area, Kay said they should not be voting members of the board.

An issue of importance for the future is the central administration, Kay said. He agreed that the administration system needs a more scrutinizing evaluation.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Dave Frye, member of Phi Delta Gamma fraternity, takes his turn sitting at the top of a pole in front of his fraternity house. The pole-sitting scheme is an attempt to raise money for the Nebraska Human Resources Center.

Court: Only ASUN can establish appellate body

By Mary Louise Knapp

The ASUN Student Court Tuesday handed down a declaratory judgment stating that it does not have the power to establish an appellate body, and therefore cannot hear the appeals of four religious student groups the court placed on probation last month.

According to Chief Justice Scott Cook, the only body that may act to create, organize and empower an appellate body is ASUN.

"The groups will have to go to the legislative branch (of student government)," Cook said.

The court had ruled that Christian lecturer Josh McDowell's campus speech Jan. 30 violated the NU Board of Regent's religion policy.

The four groups that sponsored McDowell's appearance at UNL—Campus Crusade for Christ, Baptist Student Union, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and Navigators-UNL—were placed on organizational probation for one year.

Lynn Rogers, a member of Navigators-

UNL, said he was not surprised at the student court's judgment.

"This is basically what we had said all along," he said. "There is no appeals process set up."

Rogers said students were able to appeal cases to the Council on Student Life before this summer. But CSL was abolished, and the regents "let the appeals process die also," Rogers said.

Rogers said he is not sure the ASUN Senate can create an appellate body.

"Any appellate body would have to be approved by the regents, and we don't know whether they would approve it," he said.

Rogers said that the lack of an appellate body is just another right that is being taken away from the students, and that they should be aware of this.

Navigators-UNL has been working with attorneys and the regents to try to change policy on appellate bodies.

"I think we have a strong case," he said. "We have talked to people all over the state and throughout the nation who are also concerned with students' rights."