

Plan proposes program reductions

By Val Swinton

A five-year projection into NU's future, detailing what programs may be cut, what ones might be strengthened and those to be maintained at their current levels, was made public Thursday by a regents' subcommittee.

The plan would move the undergraduate program at the Teachers College from Lincoln to Omaha, eliminate or reduce the Centennial College at UNL, and projects a possible deficit of \$39 million by 1985.

Regent Kermit B. Hansen of Omaha, who chaired the Regents Planning Subcommittee which drew up the report, said the plan was designed to increase the salaries of teachers and administrators in certain departments while increasing the quality of education in those areas.

"We're going to make reductions in

some areas in order to reallocate resources to other areas that are going to be strengthened," he said.

Programs that would receive increased support over the next five years at UNL include the College of Engineering, School of Life Sciences, College of Business Administration and the library.

Minimum class sizes

The plan also said savings could be made by setting minimum class sizes, increasing fees for selected student services and levying laboratory fees. The plan also calls for eliminating certain administrative services and not filling some vacancies.

Hansen conceded though, that the plan is based on assumptions, and said the plan would be reviewed on a semi-annual basis.

The projected \$39 million deficit, which the committee said would occur by 1985

"if the annual rate of inflation were 12 percent and if state general fund increases just equalled the rate of inflation. . ." is equal to about 1,500 full time staff positions, according to the report.

However, not everyone agreed with that kind of a projected deficit.

"There's no \$39 million deficit at the university and I don't think there's likely to be," said Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs at UNL.

Maintain recognition

Besides eliminating or reducing some programs and increasing support to others, the plan also calls for maintaining the level of support to certain programs which have "already achieved regional or national recognition."

Those programs include chemistry, physics, history, English, law and journalism.

Although Teachers College Dean Robert Egbert pledged that his department "would not stand still . . ." for the plan, not all reaction was negative.

James Raglin, director of public affairs, said NU is not the only school making difficult financial decisions.

"Education in general is facing a serious fiscal situation," he commented, adding that the university, like others in the nation, is having to "combine a champagne appetite with a beer diet."

Renee Wessels, ASUN president and student regent, said she was glad to see the regents finally taking some definitive action.

"I'm very pleased the board is exercising some farsightedness, I think it's long overdue," she said. "We can't keep doing what we're doing with decreased state dollars."

However, Wessels stopped short of endorsing the plan itself.

"I think there's been virtually no student input and that I think is wrong," she said. "I would be reluctant to see the board adopt this as a plan."

Timing off

Wessels said she was critical of the timing of the plan, which was kept secret until the end of the semester. She said the

timing may be designed to prohibit student input at the May 17 regents meeting, when the plan is scheduled to come up for consideration.

"I have nothing to substantiate it with," Wessels said of her suspicion. "But I find it questionable."

Raglin dismissed the timing of the release as a coincidence.

The plan actually was not to be released until today, but was leaked to an Omaha newspaper Thursday morning, and given to other members of the news media later in the day.

The plan encompasses the entire university, not just the UNL city campus.

The plan would increase support for six programs at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, including food science and technology, veterinary science and the field laboratory at Mead, but would also reduce personnel at the institute "significantly" by not filling vacancies.

Travel would also be reduced, by increasing the use of telecommunications.

The regents, however, would stand by their current policy supporting a college of veterinary medicine. Raglin explained the policy supports creation of the college only if NU receives substantial federal grants and commitments from two of four surrounding states to contribute financially, making it a regional school.

So far, Raglin said, NU has received neither the grants or the commitments.

Minimum class sizes would also be established at UNL, while graduate studies in teacher education, arts and sciences and urban studies would be reduced or eliminated.

Programs receiving increased support include special education, business administration, public administration, music and library at UNO.

Baccalaureate and Associate Degree programs in nursing in Lincoln would be reduced or eliminated, and all departments within the College of Medicine would be combined.

Tuition rates in pharmacy, medicine and dentistry would be increased more rapidly than the university as a whole.

Publications Board fires Strunk for plagiarism

By Kathy Stokebrand

As a result of a second act of plagiarism in one semester, Daily Nebraskan Editor in Chief Harry Allen (Rocky) Strunk was dismissed from that position by the UNL Publications Board Thursday. His pay for the month of April will be withheld.

Strunk appeared before the board last night to submit his resignation. The board, however, did not accept his resignation and voted 7-0 to dismiss Strunk before a packed room in the Union.

The controversy began with a letter submitted by two UNL students accusing Strunk of plagiarism in his April 30 editorial supporting Ronald Reagan. In their letter seniors Jim Schonewise and Jon Hedges said Strunk's editorial was "written in part by George F. Will, nationally known syndicated columnist." They referred to "a column written by Mr. Will published in the March 31, 1980 edition of Newsweek."

In submitting his resignation Strunk said he had problems dealing with his actions and recognized they were unethical. His actions, he added, reflected upon him personally and he submitted his resignation

"with whatever actions the board takes."

Strunk was first accused of plagiarizing a Feb. 25 editorial and was formally reprimanded by the board for a "serious breach of journalistic ethics." The letter of reprimand then sent to Strunk said, "Any further serious breach of ethics will constitute grounds for immediate dismissal."

Jim Patten, a board member and UNL journalism professor, said the board was bound by the letter it sent to Strunk after his first act of plagiarism to dismiss him for a second such act.

Asking if accepting Strunk's resignation was a large enough deterrent to other journalists to not commit the same act, board member Bud Cuca first moved that the board accept Strunk's resignation and withhold his pay for April.

During discussion on the motion, Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor Shelley Smith, noting that Strunk will be graduating this summer, asked "what has he learned in school?"

Hubert Brown, also a board member, said "The pressures of most jobs on campus are not such that would lead to such things." The board hoped to set things on the right foot by just reprimand-

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Teachers College faculty opposes 5-year-plan

By Mary Kay Wayman

"We will not accept this as a fait accompli," Teachers College Dean Robert Egbert said Thursday at an emergency faculty meeting. "We can fight and we will fight."

Egbert broke the news of the Regents Planning Subcommittee's report on long-range plans for the University of Nebraska to Teachers College faculty at the meeting. Faculty tenure would not be protected under the plan proposing elimination of undergraduate teaching majors at UNL, Egbert said.

The undergraduate major program in Teachers College was targeted as one of the three UNL "programs identified for reduction or elimination."

"Our preliminary recommendation is to close out all undergraduate majors in Teachers College at UNL, and to close all graduate programs in the College of Education at UNO," the report stated.

It is obvious that the plan is an attempt to move the undergraduate teaching majors program to the Omaha campus, Egbert said. The graduate program would be moved to the Lincoln campus. The report proposed that both campus departments might be consolidated under one chancellor.

The report proposed that a study be made of teacher education in Nebraska. Egbert objected to the fact that the report asked for a study only after giving a recommendation for final action.

Egbert said he had interpreted previous conversations with NU President Roskens to say that he would be consulted prior to the plan's completion. But the only

involvement he had was in the preparation of working papers last fall, he said.

"I was in the same state of shock that I suspect you are," he said to the restrained group of faculty. He said he first learned of the plan Monday night.

The report stated that it was the result of "extensive discussions with deans, departmental chairmen and faculty leaders held during February 1980." This was refuted by Egbert and faculty members.

Dr. James O'Hanlon said that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was not involved in the plan's preparation.

Dr. Norma Griffin said that while a representative of the Academic Planning Committee was present at planning subcommittee meetings on the plan, they did not have any direct input.

The regents could say that discussion did occur, Egbert said because Teachers College faculty attended an open discussion of issues from 10:30 a.m. to noon one day in February. But, Egbert said, there was no focus at that time on the issue of closing the undergraduate major program.

Egbert said that his concern is not only for the Teachers College, but also for the state and the university. The impact of such an elimination on the rest of the university should be considered, he said.

The number of credit hours taken by undergraduate teachers majors is equal to those of majors in business administration or engineering, he said. "But our graduate program is much larger than those two," he said.

Last year the Teachers College graduated 250 elementary education majors, and 500 secondary education majors, he said.

Teachers College undergraduates take 80 percent of their course work in the College of Arts and Sciences, he said. In a section that Egbert said he proposes be eliminated, the plan said undergraduates could still earn teaching licenses in arts and sciences, home economics and agriculture even if the undergraduate teaching major program were eliminated.

Egbert said he didn't think that was possible. Egbert called a "myth" a statement that "Nebraska maintains six public schools of education, five of which offer graduate work, at a time when the demand for teachers is continuing to decrease."

Instead, a shortage of teachers currently exists, Egbert said, adding that because the birth rate has increased over the past three years, there will soon be a growing demand for teachers.

At a recent Teachers College interview fair 180 superintendents and school officials voiced one complaint, Egbert said—there weren't enough students to interview.

The faculty passed a motion directing Egbert to present faculty views at the May 19 regents meeting when the plan will be discussed and probably passed.

Egbert said that the Teachers College would continue to consider changes in reducing costs to the university by considering the needs of the state, the college and its individual faculty members.

"We will not stand still, but we will not stand still for others telling us what to do either," Egbert said.