



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

The late September chill may be filling the air as autumn arrives, but not enough to discourage this Lincoln resident. John Dunlap sets out his fishing pole and relaxes under a nearby tree at Holmes Lake.

Senators think budget increase fair

By Steve Miller

Reactions from the Legislature's Appropriations Committee members were generally sympathetic to the NU budget request to increase state aid in the 1981-82 budget by 18 percent.

The request for the \$21,146,000 increase was voted on and approved at the last meeting of the NU Board of Regents.

Waverly Sen. Jerome Warner said he thought the university could use the increase but that he didn't think it would get that much.

"I imagine it will end up something less than that," Warner said. "I presume that the regents requested what would be desirable, but realistically I don't think it's going to be at that level."

Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln said he would support the 18 percent increase.

"That amount doesn't seem out of line," he said. "If the governor hadn't vetoed the amount proposed by the Appropriations Committee last year we wouldn't see this great a request."

Adequate funds

Fowler said that currently the state has more than adequate funds to cover the request.

"Chances for that amount depend on what the governor gives in his budget proposal," he said. "Then there will be a compromise and the governor has the final decision."

Fowler also said he thought the university was reaching a critical decision-making point on maintaining programs. He said he hoped there would be enough money approved so programs would not have to be cut.

NU budget increase 'vital'—Marsh

Krugerrands are a "disagreeable form of wealth for many persons in the United States," but the main issue facing UNL now is how the Krugerrands can help the university, Sen. Shirley Marsh told business students Monday.

Marsh spoke at the College of Business Administration. Her remarks on the Krugerrand issue came in response to questions after her speech.

Marsh said that as a state senator, she has no control over what will be done with the 1,300 Krugerrands donated to the NU Foundation last January by James Coe of Phoenix, Ariz.

The damage endangered by controversy over the coins has been done, she said, and it would do no good to return the gift. To give the Krugerrands back would be tantamount to sending back educational opportunities, she later said.

It is unfair to second-guess the decision made by others to keep the coins, she said, but recommended that the Krugerrands be converted to another form of money.

He said he thought that morale on NU campuses was less than it used to be.

Staffs continue to be dedicated, but it's hard for them when they think of the lack of money, Fowler said.

Jerry Sellentin, Fowler's opponent for the 27th District legislative seat, said that because of the setbacks in last year's budget, rising enrollment and costs, he would also support the request if elected.

"I don't think the university needs to apologize for asking for an increase because they lost ground," Sellentin said.

Make up ground

Sellentin added that he thought the 18 percent increase might make up for some of that lost ground and help maintain quality programs.

Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln said that the request was in line and that needs were not met last year.

She said she thought that there would be a loss of faculty because of low salaries.

"Professors are being asked to stay on in good faith," she said. "But we're going to lose faculty."

"We can appreciate dedication but we can't continue to count on that."

"They (professors) feel the same cost of living pinch as the rest of us."

Sen. Marsh's opponent, LaVonne Crosby, said she couldn't comment about the request without doing some research.

"I am pro-university," Crosby said. "I feel that they need to make improvements but I don't know what the state has in its fund."

"I'm for the university getting whatever it can get as long as it is justified."

Marsh, a member of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, told the students that the 18 percent budget increase suggested by the NU Board of Regents is "vital." Because the university did not receive support last year the regents had no choice but to ask for the large increase, she said.

Marsh said students should realize that the quality of education at UNL depends on the level of funding approved by the Legislature.

Funding cuts have made larger-than-ideal classes necessary, she said. The problem is especially evident in the business college, because its enrollment is increasing faster than some other colleges, she said.

Marsh urged students to find out who their state senators are by calling the legislative clerk's office.

Legislators need to hear from their constituents, she said.

"We (legislators) don't hear from students as often as I think we should," she said.

Pay increase could give faculty parity

By Betsy Miller

UNL faculty can expect to reach salary parity with similar size universities if the Nebraska Legislature approves a 12 percent faculty salary increase in the 1984-1985 academic year, said UNL Faculty Senate President Ezekiel Bahar Thursday.

A 12 percent increase in employee salaries for next year was included in the NU operating budget approved by the NU Board of Regents on Sept. 12.

Bahar said this increase translates into 10.5 percent raise in salary funds, a 1 percent increase in retirement funds and 0.5 percent more in fringe benefits.

UNL needs a 18 percent salary increase to reach parity by 1981-82, the report said.

With a 10.5 percent increase in salaries this year, the report showed that UNL salaries will still be 9.19 percent behind those of other land-grant universities which, like UNL, are members of the Association of American Universities.

The universities of Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin were no included in the report. Iowa State, Michigan State, Ohio State, Pennsylvania State and Purdue Universities were also included.

Bahar emphasized that the final increase of 12 percent in the budget was not a figure "pulled out of mid-air," but part of a gradual faculty salary increase which will help UNL achieve salary parity.

The 12 percent salary increase for this year came after close study by the salary study committee, Bahar said.

The projected increase that other university faculties will receive this year plus one-fourth of the difference between UNL and other college faculty salaries were added to come up the 12 percent increase, Bahar said.

Hopefully, in four years, UNL salaries will be at the same level as salaries at other universities, Bahar said.

Parity level rising

According to Bahar, parity will be difficult to achieve because the parity level UNL is aiming for this year will probably keep rising.

"We're shooting at a moving target," Bahar said.

He said, at first NU President Ronald Roskens and the regents made a tentative agreement to reach salary equality in three years, but that later the plan had to be revised so parity could be attained in 1985.

"This is not as fast as we expected," Bahar said.

He said that UNL faculty salaries shouldn't be below average in the first place and that faculty members might be justified in asking for a total elimination of the parity differential all at once.

However, Bahar said that the faculty is practical and realizes that parity will take some time to achieve.

Current economic factors make it impossible for the university budget to include enough funds to eliminate the salary discrepancy all at once, he said.

The salary committee report said that UNL salaries increased 7.4 percent from 1978-79 to 1979-80.

However, in 1979-80, UNL salaries were 10.49 percent lower than salaries at other universities studied, according to the report.

"There is no reason why we should have a gap to begin with. We deliver as good an education as anyone in the Big Eight," Bahar said.

The extra money for salaries at UNL receives this year will be divided up for two main uses according to Faculty Senate Secretary Earl Green.

A majority will be used to reward faculty members for satisfactory service and the rest will go to award members for special works of merit, he said.

"It (funding increase) doesn't mean that everyone would get an increase in their salary," Green said.

Green said performance and merit pay increases are decided by faculty supervisors.

These supervisors decide how much each instructor should get for good work, according to Green.

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