

daily nebraskan

Thone's NU budget calls for \$144.6 million

By Ken Merlin

Gov. Charles Thone presented his budget recommendations to the Nebraska Legislature Wednesday. In it NU would get a lump sum of \$144.6 million to be divided among the three campuses.

The university had requested an 18 percent increase, including a 10.5 percent increase in salaries and 1.5 percent increase in benefits. Gov. Thone held salaries to an 8 percent increase, plus 1 percent for additional salary or benefit improvement.

The governor began by reaffirming his policy of fiscal restraint. The 7-percent lid on state budget increases he requested upon taking office two years ago will continue, he said.

He disagreed with critics that see his leadership and the Legislature's as timid in the wake of high inflation and energy shortages.

"I submit that it requires more boldness, more courage and more leadership to do the necessary job and to maintain and support a policy of fiscal restraint.

"I have every confidence that view is shared by the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans," he said.

University programs for which he recommended a budget increase for instruction and research are:

clinical and instructional services at the medical center.

\$150,000 of state general-fund support for continuation of research activities at Eppley Cancer Research center.

agricultural biochemistry and international marketing at the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The governor put a freeze on new construction, but included funds for fire, lifesafety and minor renovations.

The budget was presented to the Legislature as a series of bills that will be sent to the Appropriations Committee for recommendations and public hearings.

While the university requested funds for the three campuses separately, the governor recommended again this year that the Legislature appropriate a lump sum to be used by the regents to address the university management and program priorities using a system-wide approach.

Gov. Thone also recommended a 19.1 percent increase for the Nebraska Educational Television Network for necessary equipment replacement.

Governor's 12.8 percent budget hike misses NU's mark

By Patti Gallagher

Gov. Charles Thone's budget recommendations for NU is generous and yet probably insufficient, according to two state senators, NU president Ronald Roskens and two members of the UNL Faculty Senate.

According to the chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, the university will get a budget increase no larger than any other state agency.

"Obviously, I would like to say you were going to do better," Warner said, "but realistically, the Legislature will not be able to spend more than it has."

The only way the university could get the 18 percent increase would be to take the money from other state programs, Warner said.

Although Warner said he can see justification for NU's higher budget request, "the same is true of everybody."

In a press release Wednesday from Roskens' office, the president said that "although his budgetary recommendations do not fully finance the request of the NU Board of Regents, we appreciate the positive attitude of Gov. Thone toward the university's needs."

Roskens said that Thone's budget message relating to the university is evidence of his support for the future of UNL.

"We will, however, during public hearings before the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, present our total needs on the basis of the previously submitted university budget request," he said.

"It is always true that we are faced with not providing adequate funds for some projects," he said. "And that will be true again."

Warner said one option open to the appropriation committee is to grant higher budget requests—the university included is to transfer funds from capital construction budgets to operating budgets.

Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler said he "would like to see us build a state budget based on needs and not on empty percentages."

He said the governor should consider those needs before setting a lid on budget increases.

Speaking to the governor's recommended 12.8 percent lid for state agency budgets, Fowler said, "I hope the Appropriations Committee can do better than that."

And although the university's 18 percent request is probably unattainable, a university budget request "hopefully somewhere between the two" is supported by Fowler.

Also in Thone's speech was a request to keep faculty salary increases at UNL at 8 percent.

A member of NU's Faculty Senate Budget Committee said the senate previously requested a 14 percent increase in faculty salaries.

Craig MacPhee, an associate professor of economics at UNL, said that the figure was requested "in order to close the gap between University of Nebraska salaries and comparable schools in two years."

The NU administration, however, adjusted the salary request to a 10.5 percent increase, MacPhee said.

"So clearly, the governor's recommendation is far below what is needed," he said.

The faculty senate testified at budget hearings last year in support of their budget request and it hopefully will be asked to appear again, MacPhee said.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone outlined the state's upcoming budget in his annual State of the State address Wednesday before the Legislature.

Legislature proposes \$2 million vet school bill

By Patti Gallagher

If a bill to be introduced in the Nebraska Legislature today is approved, planning for a UNL College of Veterinary Medicine would begin in July.

Bellwood Sen. Loran Schmit said Wednesday he will introduce a bill calling for legislative appropriations to begin vet school construction on East Campus.

The bill specifies that \$2 million be allocated from the Legislature's general fund for the period of July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982 to prepare plans, drawings and specifications for building a veterinary college.

Additionally, the bill mandates the total cost of the project not to exceed \$15 million.

Because an emergency clause is included in the bill, the allocation and beginning of plans will become effective upon the signature of the governor.

Without an emergency clause, the bill would not go into effect until 60 days after the legislative session ends, scheduled for early June.

Presently, UNL students wishing to study veterinary medicine go to outstate schools, to which the university pays a contracting fee.

According to Earl Dickinson, chairman of the UNL Veterinary Science Department, 96 students currently are enrolled in four outstate schools. Dickinson said the

total contracting cost to the university for 1980-81 will be nearly \$2 million.

Dickinson said plans to build a veterinary school have existed since 1892, with the Legislature giving its approval for construction in 1955. However, no funds were ever allocated.

Since 1974, the Old West States Commission—including the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska—has produced studies suggesting a regional veterinary school be constructed in Lincoln.

Dickinson said the commission has consistently recommended that construction costs be proportionate to the number of students attending from that state.

Funding also is provided from the federal government, Dickinson said. Because of the recognition as a separate U.S. district, projects such as the veterinary school can receive up to 50 percent of construction costs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and up to 80 percent from the department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dickinson said that between 60 to 64 students must enter the veterinary program annually on each level to make it feasible. Each state within the Old West region

would be assured a specific number of spaces in the school, he said, with Nebraska given a 35-space quota.

As students from other states enter the school, he said, they would be charged a building-use fee in addition to tuition, which would off-set some of the construction costs.

In addition to improving the livestock industry in the Midwest, Dickinson said a veterinary school in Lincoln "would be retaining the money we are spending out of state now (in contracts)."

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