

Union's Student fee request lower than amount allocated last year

By Lori McGinnis

For the fourth consecutive year, no increase in student fee support has been requested for the Nebraska Union. Union Director Daryl Swanson requested \$564,213 in fees for the union's 1981-82 budget from the Committee for Fees Allocations Tuesday. The amount is down from \$592,633 allocated for this year.

A rental agreement between the unions and the University Bookstore reduced the requested budget by \$32,698 to the operating budget.

Swanson also attributes the lower request to better management techniques and efficiencies in the unions. Firing three bakers played a big part in reducing the re-

quest, he said. Closing the south desk and replacing piped in Musak with FM radio in the union also helped.

If the request were allocated, Swanson said each student would pay \$12.67 in student fees per semester. The amount is down about a dollar from last year.

The governor's recommendation to the Legislature that state funds not be used to pay utilities for student centers concerned Swanson.

"Pragmatically, I think we would have to turn to student fees" if the recommendation is passed, Swanson said.

If the union had to pay all utilities, students would pay an additional \$6 per semester. If the state paid 50 percent of the union utilities, students would pay \$3 more per semester.

"The frustration on my part is that we're truly at the mercy of the Legislature," Swanson said.

Other Big Eight Unions are paying utility costs, he said. But they also have additional sources of income, such as managing their own bookstores.

Of all union departments, only some use student fee assistance. House operations, information desks, Campus Activities and Programs, and administrative departments all use student fee money.

Food services and recreation departments are self-supporting.

The total union budget is based on the assumption of a 10.5 percent increase in union employee salaries.

Salary increases of 10.5 percent make up the largest part of the budget. The committee approved the hiring of another employee to be in charge of training and evaluating officials, supervising the indoor facilities and working with the dual intramural activities.

The committee also recommended that the recreation department receive \$206,089 from student fees in 1981-82. The recommendation is the same amount the department requested.

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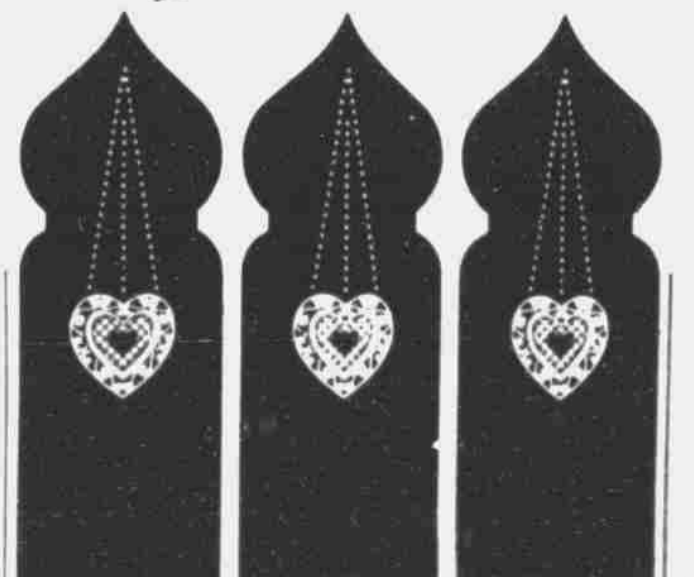
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