thursday, march 12, 1981

daily nebraskan

Survey shows majority approves of NU support

By Patti Gallagher

If NU's budget request is approved this legislative session, Nebraskans will be paying about \$13 each to support the university.

According to a recent survey, more than half of Nebraska's citizens believe the amount of state tax dollars going to NU is about right.

The survey, completed by the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research, showed that 53 percent of those surveyed believe the present amount of state support for NU is proper.

Thirteen percent said NU receives too little: 5 percent said it gets too much. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents had no opinion.

The survey, conducted during February and April of 1980, included hour-long telephone interviews with 1,916 Nebraskans older than 18.

It included only two questions about NU. The remainder of the survey, titled the Nebraska Annual Social

Indicators Survey, is conducted each year for state and local agencies on a wide range of topics.

The two questions about NU were asked of 923 persons. They concerned the extent of NU service and program use, and the degree of public support for these programs.

According to David Brinkerhoff, UNL assistant professor of sociology, the NASIS survey's margin of error is less than 5 percent.

Brinkerhoff, who compiled the NU question replies with Alan Booth, UNL professor of sociology, estimated the completed survey cost between \$60,000 and \$70,000. The cost was shared by NU, the research bureau and state and local agencies, he said.

The Booth-Brinkerhoff report was completed last summer and released in December, Brinkerhoff said.

The results indicated that 57 percent of those responding said they had attended a university athletic event, 54 percent had used a university extension service, 51 percent had attended a cultural event or visited a museum or

gallery, 34 percent had taken a university class or had children who attended, 29 percent attended lectures or programs at NU, and 15 percent said they received medical care from the university.

Brinkerhoff said the overall consensus was that the university should receive as much or more support than it currently does. He said the 13 percent who thought NU receives too little tax support tend to be those who participate in more university programs, were more highly educated, and younger.

The 5 percent who said NU should receive fewer tax dollars were characterized as having moderately low incomes (\$7,500 to \$14,999), were older and had less education, he said.

Brinkerhoff also said that as the university broadens its programs and services in the coming years, support for NU also should grow.

He added, however, that the question of greater support or increased allocations of tax dollars should be the decision of state-level policy makers.



121.

ed.

attend.

posted.

er