

# Union utility expenses threaten fee increase

By Ward W. Triplett III

A proposed plan to reduce the unions' utility bill in the next fiscal year would still require a raise in student fees, said Daryl Swanson, union director.

At the Union Board meeting Wednesday night Swanson said the recent administrative decision that the unions must pay for their own utilities will cost an estimated \$294,700.

"If the university is going to have the unions pay for these (their utilities) we

would then have to begin charging the university for its current building uses in turn," Swanson said.

In a revised estimation of university usage of the union from two years ago Swanson said the unions would charge \$44,021 for university office space; \$77,351 for meeting, dining and assembly rooms; \$28,056 for public areas and services; \$18,337 for academic space for home economics (in the East Union) and \$21,145 for storage and mechanical services to sup-

port those areas.

This proposal would leave what Swanson called a "remaining problem" of \$85,714 in utility costs. This money would have to come from student fees, Swanson said.

"I think the students should pay a part of the unions' cost but I am concerned about the prospect of adding additional fees burdens to students," he said.

The \$85,714 would be approximately \$2 per student and that may rise in upcoming years with rising utility costs, Swanson said.

In other board action a motion was passed stating the union will no longer take reservations for the lighted portable signs that have been used in the past for advertising outside of the unions.

The union will honor all signs currently scheduled and the operations committee will look into increasing protection of the signs.

Several board members said the signs lack of "aesthetic quality" reflected poorly on the unions, particularly when letters were changed. The signs are constant vandalism targets, Swanson said.

Swanson also said the Cornhusker Bank had expressed an interest in putting a money machine in the East Union.

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