

daily nebraskan

Budget recommendation falls short of request

By Patti Gallagher

After a month and a half of whittling, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee trimmed 5 percentage points off the NU budget request.

March 5, NU administrators presented the university's 1981-82 general operating budget, requesting 18 percent more in state funds than for the previous fiscal year.

Tuesday, the Appropriations Committee presented its recommendation that NU receive 13 percent more than last year, for a total state allocation of \$144.9 million.

The university requested \$151.9 million, having received \$128.2 million for 1980-81.

Although the committee recommendation, expected to be debated after the Legislature's Easter holiday break, falls short of the university request, it is more than the 12.8 percent increase, recommended by Gov. Charles Thone.

The university is declining comment on the committee proposal at this time, according to Jim Raglin, director of university public affairs.

"I think we'll let it go a while," Raglin said. "We'll let it get on the floor." He said the budget probably will go through many other changes before being finalized, and the administration may comment publicly at that time.

UNL would receive 13.3 percent more from the state general fund under the budget bill. UNO would receive 12.3 percent more, the NU Central Administration would receive a 13.8 percent increase and the NU Medical Center would receive a 13 percent increase.

Among the specific allocations proposed for UNL by the appropriations committee are funds for more library books and periodicals (\$154,847); for more graduate assistants (\$158,500); for seven additional faculty and staff members in agricultural biochemistry (\$168,000);

for academic programs for computer use (\$286,371); and for the increased cost of the veterinary student contract programs (\$292,137).

The committee also proposed to eliminate funds for the general engineering program (\$149,365), and the Centennial Education Program (\$155,704).

The committee also introduced its recommendations for state-funded capital construction projects.

The construction figures include \$250,000 for NU construction. The bill authorizes the NU Board of Regents to make fire and safety improvements, and minor renovations on all campuses. It specifies that no appropriation be used for planning or design of major remodeling, renovation or new construction programs.

University officials, when presenting the budget, presented a 19-item list for capital construction. The list included a request of \$15.5 million for the coming fiscal year.

Heppner doors to close permanently next year

By Patty Pryor

The ground floor of Heppner Hall in Neihardt Residence Center, currently housing 14 residents, will be permanently closed next year, according to Douglas Zatechka, housing office director.

"It's an area of housing that sits below groundlevel,

and it's in an old building where there's insufficient maintenance to keep it up," he said.

Water leaks and insect problems exemplify the floor's run down condition, he said.

The floor also has several "mechanical rooms," containing, among other things, pipes for the water and boiler systems and the trash receptacle.

"(The floor) is in such a condition that we don't want to pay the money to fix it up," he said.

Student Assistant Don Blankenau agreed that the floor "is not a real beneficial place to live."

Because of its small size, even though it provides a more relaxed atmosphere, the residents tend to remain in their own world, isolated from the rest of the complex, he said.

"It seems more like a house than a dorm," he said. Blankenau became the floor's student assistant in January after living in Harper Hall for 2½ years.

"Coming from a floor with 55 people, it was a big change," he said.

A number of Heppner residents think it is a "rip-off" to be paying the same housing rate as other hall residents, he added. With such a disparity in living conditions, he said, some residents feel cheated.

Steve Jones, a floor resident, said he could understand the reasons for closing down the floor, but added it was in poor condition because the housing office didn't want to put any money in it.

"I think they were planning on closing it a long time ago," he said.

The floor has numerous maintenance problems, Jones said, including sinks that back up and faulty locks on room doors.

"I've been locked inside my room before," he said. Despite the poor conditions, Jones said he likes living on the floor, where he's been for the past year, because of its small size.

Jim Jirik, another floor resident, agreed that it is easier to get to know everybody on such a small floor.

"It's kind of a nice place to live," he said, "but (closing it) is no big thing, really."

Dave Barrett, another resident, compared the hall to an apartment complex.

"It's their (the housing office's) property," he said. "If they're losing money on it, it makes sense (to close it)."

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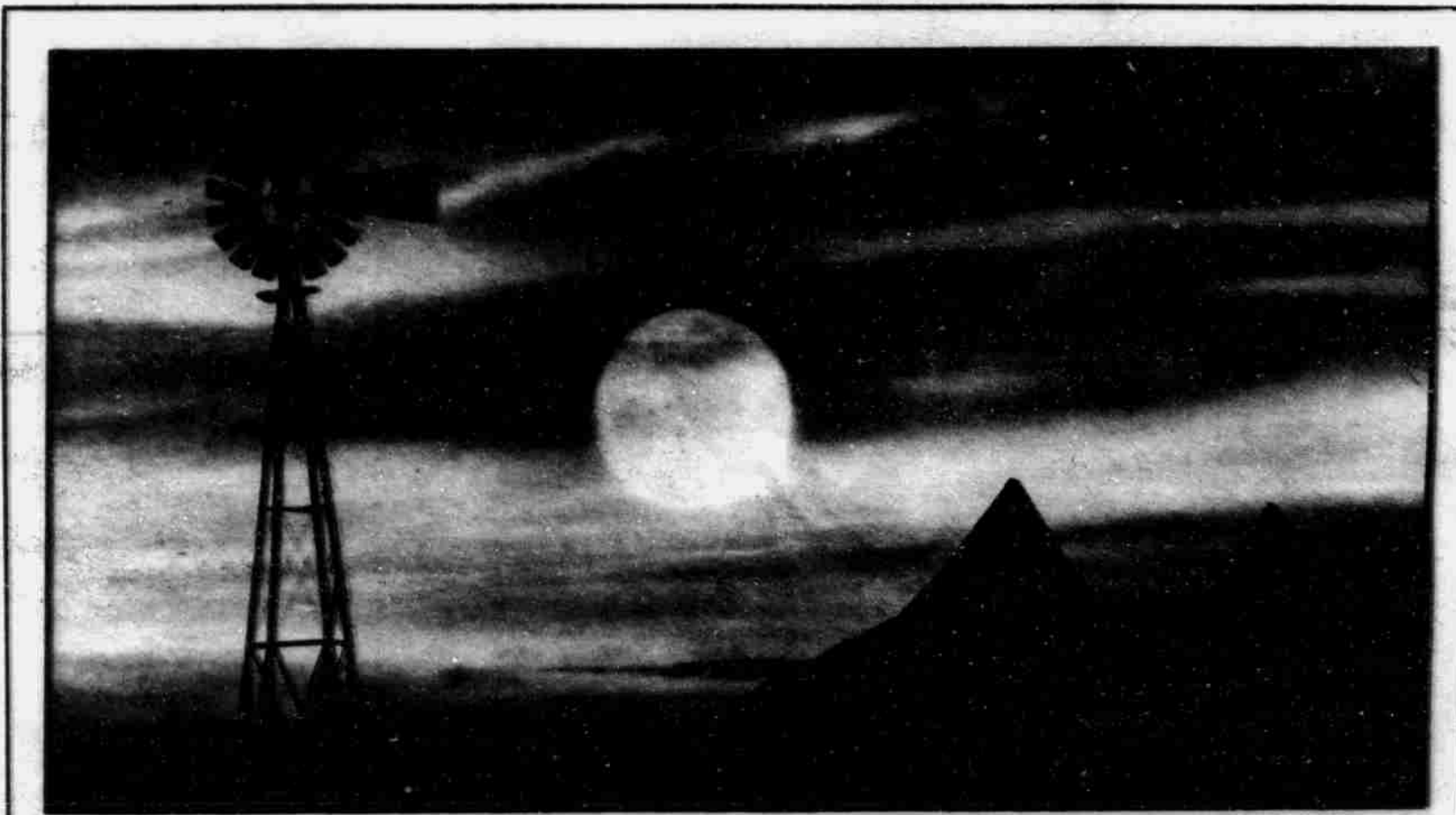


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Werewolves of Lincoln take cover. . . The full moon is said to bring out the worst features of the human psyche, but it seemed innocent enough on this Nebraska spring evening.

Student organizations battling for Union offices

By Ward W. Triplett III

A request by ASUN President Rick Mockler that was partially approved by the Nebraska Union Board Allocation Committee has caused Student Y and University Program Council Culture Center officials to label ASUN as being insensitive and failing to act in the interests of hundreds of students.

The board announced the proposal at its Wednesday meeting to move the Government Liaison Committee and the Student Legal Services offices to first floor, thereby assuming space now occupied by the Student Y and UPC Culture Center.

Those two groups would be moved upstairs to the space vacated by the two ASUN branches, which is some 40 square feet smaller.

"We've seen a real expansion in the student use of and effectiveness of GLC," Mockler said.

"In order to effectively staff GLC, we have to increase their office space," Mockler said.

Because of another effort to combine the credit union and legal services, Mockler said he originally had requested the Student Y space (Room 117) as well as reapplying for the GLC space upstairs (Room 226).

"That was the original rationale. We would have moved the credit union and legal services into 117, and just expanded GLC to take up all of 226," Mockler said.

"But the board decided just to more or less switch us around with the Student Y. It's a good thing in that we've become more accessible to each other and for students. But on the minus side, we haven't achieved that much in getting the two things we wanted together most in the same spot."

While Mockler was only mildly upset with the board's proposal, people involved with the two groups were "hot," according to UPC-Culture Center adviser Kenneth Gilreath.

"I've talked with people all day about this, and I get the impression that it's more than just being moved out. They feel that they are being pushed around.

"Location is very symbolic," said Student Y Coordinator Carol Gourlay. "Minority students don't miss the messages in things like this. By sticking us upstairs and in the back, they are telling them, 'We don't have to be responsive to you, we don't want to work with you, we don't give a damn about you.'"

Gourlay said no one from ASUN or the union had ever come by and discussed the possible move with the Student Y.

"The Women's Resource Center had heard a rumor a few months ago that ASUN wanted this whole corner, and we worked hard trying to track down the source of that rumor, but all we got were denials," she said.

Gourlay added that the first knowledge she had of the move was in the Daily Nebraskan, and called it a "nice way to tell us."

Both Gilreath and Gourlay said that the Student Y existed on people just dropping by, and a move to second floor would diminish its appeal.

"The Culture Center has to have a big traffic of students going through just to survive. This place is easily accessible, that's why it's such a big success," Gilreath said.

"It would seem to me that there would be a psychological thing people would have against climbing the stairs. After a while, the 'Y' would just fall apart."

The Culture Center is designed to bring together students from the three most recognized minority groups, while the Student Y is to bring together all students, Gourlay said. The two organizations are separate enough so that a single room with partitions would be obstructive to both, Gourlay added.

It was precisely the design of Room 117 which made it ASUN's choice instead of the Women's Resource Center, which is located directly next door.

"We needed a double office, with a common space. The Women's Resource Center is just one room, which doesn't serve our interest," Mockler said.

Mockler, whose first plan may have phased the Student Y and Culture Center out of the union completely, said it was his feeling that more students are using the GLC offices, and because of that, the first floor location was important to them.

inside friday

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