

daily nebraskan

Mockler makes donation, jumps on bandwagon

By Melinda Norris

Amid choruses of "Hail Varsity" blaring from the steps of Memorial Stadium, Rick Mockler, ASUN Senate president and student regent, presented a personal check to UNL band member Byron Braasch Tuesday to help cover the band's expenses for the Orange Bowl trip.

The \$460 check is a deduction from the funds Mockler receives as a member of the administrative party flying to Miami. Each person in the administrative party was allotted an average \$2,129 of the \$591,575 presented to UNL by the Orange Bowl Committee for expenses incurred on the trip to Miami.

Mockler reduced his administrative food and incidental expenses of \$50 a day to \$15 per day, equal to the band's daily allowance, saving \$210. Mockler said he also is cashing in his plane ticket and will carpool to Miami for a savings of \$250.

Mockler also has cancelled his \$100 per night room reservation at the Sheraton Bel Harbour Hotel, opting instead for a room at Days Inn in downtown Miami for

\$39 a night. Because hotel accommodations are handled by the administration, Mockler says he trusts them to forward the \$366 savings to the band.

The total savings of \$826 will reduce Mockler's expense budget to \$424. This figure is \$113 more than was allotted for each band member by the UNL Business and Finance Office.

Mockler's expense allotment of \$1,250 is less than the \$2,189 per person average administration and regents allotment. Mockler said he did not know why his allocation is less, but he speculated that it is because the wives of administrators will have their airfare paid for, although regents' wives must pay their own way. He said tickets for shuttle buses and some planned events probably make up some of the difference.

The administration's expenses allotment equal seven times as much as the band's. Mockler said this "shows the priorities of the administration and the regents."

Mockler encouraged the members of the administrative party to turn over to the band an amount of their funds they consider to be unnecessary.

"The difference (between a bus and plane trip) could easily be made up by contributions by the regents and administrators," he said.

Referring to an editorial in the Dec. 3 Daily Nebraskan, Mockler said the difference between a plane and bus trip is about \$2,235.

The marching band is the "image" of the university, Mockler said.

"It's the band that will perform the half-time entertainment," he said.

The band practices from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. during the week and 10:30 a.m. on game days, Mockler said.

The band also will need time to practice when they get to Miami, he added.

"As a regent, I will be laying out on the beach and have plenty of time to rest up after getting to Miami," he said.

"We wouldn't have gotten invited to the Orange Bowl if it wasn't for the students," Mockler said.

"This is a prime example of the priorities of the university administration, and students must stick together on this," Mockler said.



ASUN Senate President Rick Mockler (left) presents a check for \$460 to band members Byron Braasch (center) and William Kellett (right) Tuesday morning in front of Memorial Stadium.

More tuition, unspent wages finance added class sections

By Ward W. Triplett III

Students who didn't receive some of the classes they requested during pre-registration still may get them, the interim vice chancellor for academic affairs said.

John W. Strong said some classes, such as English 150, Speech 109, and Advertising 217 — all of which had a large number of applicants but few sections — will have additional sections by January to accommodate the overflow.

"We recognize that doing things at the eleventh hour is an inconvenience to the students, and we regret that," Strong said, "but we've had to go through a very difficult transition period, and we appreciate everyone's toleration."

The 3 percent budget reduction has prevented hiring teachers for some departments.

However, Strong said it would have been "cutting our own throats" to not open more sections.

"We felt that if we did not staff these classes, we would lose students, thus losing fee money and tuition revenue," he said.

Unbudgeted income from excess tuition — money that wasn't budgeted last year — and savings from positions that have been vacant for parts of the year will pay the salary of the additional teachers.

Strong said adding a section costs an estimated \$1,500 to \$6,000.

The Departments of Chemistry, English, Modern Languages and Literatures and Teachers College classes may add sections. The list of sections to be added is not complete yet, Strong said.

When all of the possible sections are added, he said, course availability will not differ dramatically from last year's offering.

About 5,000 students over the entire campus didn't receive classes they requested, he said. Some departments turned away many students, while others were able to place most of the students registering in that department.

Engineering Dean Stan Liberty said the budget deduction for his department was small and no classes were cut.

"Everything listed in our pre-semester course offering will be taught in the spring," he said.

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Band official, regents react to Mockler's bowl donation

By Kim Hachiya

Reactions to ASUN Senate President Rick Mockler's donation of a \$460 check to the UNL Marching Band were varied Tuesday afternoon.

Jack Snider, director of bands, said, "This is a fantastic gesture on his (Mockler's) part. He can see the discrepancy in the funds. I appreciate his gesture — it was a brave and gallant thing to do."

Mockler suggested in his Tuesday press conference that members of the NU Board of Regents and UNL administrators donate any excess funds they have to the band to help defray air fare costs instead of the bus trip to Miami.

"If all the administration people want to do this, it would make up the difference," Snider said. "But we're certainly not suggesting that they do this."

Mockler said his contribution to the band isn't intended to be charity, but an attempt to reallocate what he said he considers to be an unfair allotment for groups within the university.

"Certainly \$826 (the check, plus a \$366 hotel rebate) is not by itself going to be able to fly the band down," Mockler said. "But if regents and administration as a whole prioritizes them as being more important we certainly could fly the band down."

"The reason is not because we can't afford to fly, it's because administration had relegated the band to the lowest priority for this trip."

"Not too late"

Mockler said he had heard some people say it is too late to change any of the situation.

"We keep hearing that we should have taken action earlier. We tried and we would have loved to have participated in the decisions. But they were made behind closed doors. Only now can we attempt to rectify the situation," Mockler said. "It's not too late. That argument is a real old one."

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said he hadn't seen Mockler's figures, but he called the donation a fine gesture. But he added, "If Rick is really concerned for the university, he should, in all good faith, make a good and honest effort to contribute to the university and help alleviate the 3 percent budget cut."

"This is a fine gesture. Many of us have given to the NU Foundation but we haven't called a great big press conference to announce it."

Schwartzkopf said that if Mockler is sincere in his efforts to help the band, he should organize a fundraiser for the band.

"Why doesn't he go out and organize things to eliminate this? This is the first

year the band could go without a fundraiser. If Rick wants to do something, he should have a fundraiser go to the foundation and say he wants to head up this kind of drive so this never happens again," Schwartzkopf said.

Limited fundraising efforts

Snider said the band has never raised any funds for bowl trips except for the 1975 trip to the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona. Private donations have helped defray band expenses in other years, but no organized fundraising efforts have been started except that year.

Schwartzkopf said the trip to Miami isn't all "fun and games." He said regents and administrators will have a chance to talk with other Big Eight and Atlantic Coast Conference administrators about problems UNL shares with other schools.

But Mockler said any business conducted in Miami could be conducted in Lincoln, at less expense.

"As a regent, I have not been informed about any business to be conducted at the Orange Bowl," Mockler said. "Certainly I'll have an opportunity to meet with other officials, but I don't feel that justifies the tremendous expense allotments and hotel accommodations."

Schwartzkopf said, "If I were to do that (make a donation) I wouldn't do a big press conference to announce it. You know, I played in the Rose Bowl as a starting guard so I enabled the band to go. You just don't go around tooting your own horn. People will know you are contributing without telling them."

Mockler said the regents have missed the point of the statement he and band members are trying to make.

"The point is that students are not a priority for them but they should be," Mockler said. "Students are the very reason they (regents and administrators) are here. They wouldn't have jobs, wouldn't be elected and they certainly wouldn't be going to the Orange Bowl without them."

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