

Faculty Senate accepts officer selection changes

A draft proposing certain changes in the UNL by-laws concerning selection of senior administrative officers was accepted with reservations by the UNL Faculty Senate Tuesday afternoon.

The changes faculty senate president James O'Hanlon and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Steven Sample propose in the draft deal with faculty involvement in interviewing candidates, and the search committee's ability to submit a list of recommended candidates for senior officer positions.

Objections to the draft were raised by faculty senator Robert Narveson because of wording in the draft. Narveson said referring to the committee as an advisory committee rather than a search committee depreciates the role of the committee itself.

"To single out a committee function that the faculty regards as more crucial than nearly any other, and explicitly to label that committee function as advisory, appears to many faculty as gratuitously threatening and insulting," Narveson said.

The draft is also unclear as to what role the committee's list of recommendations will play in the selection of officers, Narveson said.

"The document is completely silent concerning the use that the selecting officer is to make of this list. Presumably if he or she so chooses, the selecting officer may light a fire with it. And as I understand it, the chancellor at the medical school wants that option, insists on it, and is being accommodated," Narveson said.

The Board of Regents will vote on the

draft and a proposed investigation into differences in the Health Insurance payments between UNL and UNO.

Reports on the measures taken to meet the 3 percent budget reductions were given by John Strong, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Howard Ottoson, Interim Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The University was faced with the task of reducing \$1.6 million from the budget, Strong said. When first faced with the cuts, Strong said, the office was hopeful that the various colleges would not be cut.

The problem with that strategy, he said, is that certain programs such as library acquisitions and the Research Council would be hard hit. Chancellor Massengale decided that those areas had suffered enough from past cuts, Strong said, and they should not be cut again.

Strong said the chancellors from the various colleges pieced together the additional tuition revenue, generated this semester, and investment income. The total from these resources came to \$780,000, which paid for half of the \$1.6 million budget cut, Strong said.

The largest budget cut was taken by the Academic Affairs office, which has reduced its budget by \$550,000, Strong said. Other cuts Strong mentioned were the office of Student Affairs, which cut its budget by \$35,000, and the Research and Graduate Studies offices, which took a \$15,000 cut.

"Quite frankly not all units were equally able to take the 3 percent cut," Strong

said. Overall, Strong said, everybody at the University has played a part in the cuts. There has been no one facet of the University that has been excluded from the cuts, he said.

Strong said estimates for next semester's tuition revenue have been conservative. Should there be more tuition revenue generated than expected there may be a reassessment on budget cuts for those colleges especially hard hit, Strong said.

The office of Agriculture and Natural Resources is in a worse position than other UNL offices, vice chancellor Ottoson said. The main reason the office is having more

difficulty meeting the cuts is the office does not benefit from additional tuition revenue, he said.

In order to meet budget cuts, the office has had to put a freeze on hiring and has cut extension personnel travel, Ottoson said.

With careful management, Ottoson said, the office hopes to balance the books by July 1.

The unit facing the most cuts is the University's Cooperative Extension Service, Ottoson said. Because of the cuts the office has had to close down some county extension jobs, he said.

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