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NU regents' expense reports vary

By Mary Louise Knapp

Expenses for the NU Board of Regents vary widely from regent to regent, with board members submitting reports whenever they feel it is necessary, William Swanson, secretary of the board said.

Swanson said the regents are not required to submit expense reports to the university, but that most regents prefer to do so on a monthly basis.

"Some regents just don't spend very much money," Swanson said.

Last year, the regents' expense reports ranged from \$349.65 spent by Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln to \$5,171 spent by Robert Prokop of Wilbur, then chairman of the board.

Prokop's expenses and the spending habits of other regents recently led Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler to propose that the board's executive committee clear all regent expenses before reimbursement.

Swanson said he currently sends requests for expense reimbursement directly to UNL's Office of Business and Finance for payment.

Prokop said in an interview that he apspent \$233.08.

proved of clearing expenses with the university.

"It's fine to clear expenses with the executive committee," he said.

Most of the money Prokop charged to the university was spent on travel across the state to give speeches about NU to various community groups.

Wagner had accused Prokop of soliciting opportunities to give speeches and then charging the expense for those speeches back to the university.

Prokop said he had told community groups that he would speak to them about the university if they were interested, but said he had not actively solicited speaking engagements.

Past board chairmen spent considerably less for travel during their one-year terms than Prokop did, according to expense reports.

Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff, chairman in 1977, spent \$2,368.49 during that year; Robert Koefoot of Grand Island spent \$1,012.09 while chairman in 1979; and Schwartzkopf, chairman in 1978, spent \$233.08

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