

## Proposal would increase benefits

Retirees employed by NU before 1961 would receive greater benefits under a proposal by Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler.

LB811 would raise benefits for 897 retirees from an average \$669 a month to about \$1,000, said Roy Loudon, administrator of Personnel and Risk Management at UNL.

The increased benefits would cost the state about \$900,000, 50 percent more than the present \$600,000, Loudon said.

Fowler said the change is needed because of the small retirement pensions. But he said the bill may not get out of committee to be considered by the full Nebraska Legislature because of budget constraints.

In 1961, Loudon said, the university adopted a new pension plan that greatly increased benefits. Benefits from the new plan are 50 to 75 percent of a retiree's final salary, he said. Under the old plan, benefits were much smaller, he said.

The 1961 increase was not extended to the time people spent under the previous

system. However, employees were switched over to the new system. People who retired after 1961 received benefits from both plans based on the amount of time spent under each plan, Loudon said.

Some people receive all or most of their benefits from the old plan, he said. That plan was readjusted once in 1978, but the increase has not kept pace with inflation.

After the initial benefit increase, the bill provides for yearly increases based on faculty salary raises.

Loudon said that money invested in the previous retirement fund drew 3 percent interest. Now the money pulls in 14 percent interest so the percentage of benefits can be greater, he said.

Lee Chatfield, who retired as dean of Academic Services in 1972, said that for some retirees, the bill would provide \$200 a month more. However, because he accrued 14 years of benefits from the old plan and 11 years from the new plan, the difference for him would be only \$15 a month.



Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Al Papik

## Admissions director at UNL likes selling higher education to students

By Vicki Ruhga

Al Papik, UNL director of admissions, is the first person that many incoming freshmen correspond with at the university.

Papik said he likes his job because of the constant contact with prospective students and secondary schools.

"I'm selling something I really believe in — education," Papik said. "It's easy for me to look you in the eye and say UNL is the best place for you because I believe the university is a quality institution. I like to see students who want to prepare themselves for a richer, fuller life by attending college."

Papik, a Crete native, has been director of admissions at UNL for nine years. Prior to that, he was the director of admissions at Doane College in Crete for 16 years, and was Doane's football and track coach for 15 of those years. He is a Doane graduate.

Papik said he definitely can affect incoming students.

"The first contact is extremely important," Papik said. "Incoming students meet us before they meet the faculty or the administrators. This is probably unfair because we see very little of students once they are here."

Papik said a student's first contacts with the university also are important because the student usually forms a positive or negative opinion about higher education based on them.

However, research has shown that admissions offices do not influence a student's college choice as much as parents and peers do, he said.

"High school counselors are also not as strong an influence as parents and peers, according to researchers," Papik said.

The office of admissions has two major responsibilities, Papik said.

"First we must get information to students interested in higher education, so they can make a sound, intelligent decision," he said. "Second, we must provide the teaching faculty with a student who is now ready to learn."

Papik said he also considers the office of admissions a data-collection agency.

"We gather information on students and

send it to housing, financial aids, athletics or the appropriate academic areas," he said.

In the future, Papik said he would like to have more personal contact with high school seniors.

"We have never been involved with recruitment as private colleges are," he said. "They are able to initiate the contact with prospective students, but we don't have the staff to do that."

Besides improving contact with prospective students, Papik wants to continue improving the academic advisory program for incoming freshmen. Many freshmen students are overwhelmed by all the choices of classes and do not know which to take, unless they are lucky enough to have an older brother or sister to help, he said.

"I would also like to see an increase in the emphasis on recruitment of scholars," Papik said. "I think some very good students go out-of-state to other institutions."

Another area for improvement that Papik mentioned was the physical setting of the admissions office.

"We need a more conducive space to receive students and parents," he said. "We don't have a large reception area, and there is not even room for a student to sit down without being in the middle of our work area."

Commenting about his personal life, Papik said his personal goals cannot be separated from his professional goals. Hobbies are important to relieve the pressures of work, Papik said.

"My personal goal is to improve my golf score," he said.


Besides golf, Papik enjoys gardening and watching football and track.

Students now are somewhat different than students years ago, Papik said.

"You hear a lot about declining test scores, but I believe students are better prepared than ever before. They are emotionally stable, and have given their careers more consideration than ever before," he said.

Papik said the lower test scores of earlier years were a trend that has begun to reverse.

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## AUF offering scholarships for first time

Applications for four \$250 scholarships offered by the All-University Fund are available beginning today.

Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 2.75 and be active in volunteer service and philanthropy work. Students also must be returning to the university for the next academic year.

The deadline for applying for the scholarships, to be awarded April 4, is March 19 at 4 p.m. Applications can be picked up and returned to the office of Campus Activities and Programs, Nebraska Union 200.

This is the first year AUF has offered the scholarships. A spokesperson for the committee said AUF plans to offer them annually hereafter.



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