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Aripoli: Few drop out because of aid cutbacks

By Christopher Galen

Despite widespread fears that economic austerity and current budget cutbacks would cause thousands of students to drop out of college, such a scenario has not yet occurred at UNL, according to Don Aripoli, director of scholarships and financial aids.

"I have yet to see one student who says 'I'm leaving because I can't get any financial aid,'" Aripoli said.

Aripoli's office estimates that costs for attending UNL this year will range from \$4,300 to nearly \$5,000, depending on the student's type of housing. That approximation includes everything from tuition, fees, books and housing to transportation and personal expenses. Aripoli said he believes President Reagan's push for cutbacks in financial aid to college students really hasn't hurt most people in Nebraska.

"The costs of attending UNL are less than for other similar schools and, as a

result, our kids will feel the cuts less than those in smaller, private schools. We're more immune due to our location in Lincoln, which provides a good job market, and we also receive state support," Aripoli said.

However, he said he thinks Reagan's economic program has caused some difficulties.

"There are three basic problems which, from my perspective, have been caused by the federal government," Aripoli said.

"The first is a reduction in the total funds available for financial aid, which is a direct result of governmental cutbacks in spending," he said. "This means you must look for new or less desirable options to finance your education.

"The good news is that the cutbacks were not nearly as bad as we had originally anticipated they would be. We felt there might have been as much as a 50 percent reduction in funds. The actual figure now is closer to 10 percent. However, the bad news is that the president will certainly

propose additional cutbacks for next year's budget," Aripoli said.

"The second problem we now have is dealing with changes in the Guaranteed Student Loan program," Aripoli said. "Previously, nearly anyone could get a student loan, but now there is a great deal more paperwork required in checking the student's financial situation and determining if he's eligible for aid."

Aripoli said it's hard to explain to parents and students why they're suddenly ineligible for a loan, when in previous years they had no trouble getting one.

"The final problem is in the processing and validation of Pell Grants," he said. "The government now requires that virtually all recipients must send in their tax records, which really adds to the paperwork. All this takes more time, and delays in the Pell Grant processing delay our help to the students."

Pell Grants are awarded to students by the federal government on the basis of

need and cost of education.

"It's been a frustrating summer for students. We're here to serve them, but we're handicapped by the delays in processing and by the backlog of paperwork caused by the government," he said.

In spite of these added obstacles, Aripoli said he did not think a significant number of students suddenly found themselves without any financial support. He estimated that the number of "no-awards," those who are rejected for aid, is comparable to that of the last few years.

Aripoli estimates that 20,000 UNL students apply annually to be considered for financial aid, with some 12,000 to 15,000 of those applicants receiving either scholarships, grants, loans or jobs.

"We would hope that between loans, employment and relatively low costs, the average student will make it financially," he said. "I believe that here is Nebraska, our students are pretty good about not abusing the system of financial aids."

Vacant positions remain unfilled as fresh academic year begins

By Eric Peterson

Three UNL colleges have no permanent dean, and one of them has been in doubt about a permanent replacement for nearly a year and a half.

Staffing those vacancies at UNL are Don Shaneyfelt, acting dean of the Law School, and James O'Hanlon, acting dean of the Teachers College. Wilma Crumley is acting dean of the Journalism School while the permanent dean, R. Neale Copple, is working as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, while Gerhard Meisels is acting dean for the Arts and Science College.

There is nothing unusual about the vacancies, according to Larry Andrews, assistant to the chancellor and assistant vice chancellor of academic affairs.

But the failure of Chancellor Martin Massengale to appoint a permanent Arts and Sciences dean has puzzled and angered some of the faculty in that college.

"He and only he is responsible for the Arts and Sciences College not having a dean," said June Levine, associate professor of English and a member of the Arts and Science Executive Committee, which evaluates policies in the college.

Levine pointed out that Massengale did not accept any of five nominations that a search committee in the college gave to him, and offered no reason for it. Levine stressed that having a permanent dean is crucial.

"It's never good to let interim people appoint the chairpersons in the departments," she said.

Outlook affected

William B. Campbell, associate professor of physics and astronomy and a member of both the Arts and Sciences Executive Committee and the search committee that looked for people to fill the dean post, said the lack of a permanent dean affects the outlook of the faculty.

"Uncertainty naturally makes the faculty apprehensive. Everybody's anxious for a permanent choice because important budget decisions are being made."

Andrews, who serves as Massengale's press liaison, responded that part of the reason the college has had an

interim dean for so long is the complicated and lengthy search process.

"It takes a long time to conduct a search," he said. "Each member of the search committee has to look over each candidate and discuss each possibility, ultimately providing a shorter list of four or five finalists. Then there's the interview process."

Sylvia Wiegand, associate professor of mathematics and statistics and, member of the search committee, said the committee started meeting last October, and by January had placed an advertisement for potential candidates with a February deadline for applications. When Massengale rejected all five of the strongest candidates that the search committee selected, Wiegand was disappointed.

"I think it's a big shame. I guess I was rather disheartened." She said that Massengale fended off questions about his decision by saying it would be unprofessional to discuss specific candidates with the search committee.

New committee

Andrews said a new search committee will begin work as soon as school starts. He also refused to discuss Massengale's action, saying it would not be fair to the individual people involved.

"The chancellor just felt that there was no clear-cut choice out of the five candidates."

For Levine, however, this is simply an evasion.

"Massengale had a chance to appoint a candidate with really wide support, and he didn't do it." Levine said the search committee submitted a list of five names, but had unanimously settled on Milton Glick, a chemistry instructor from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., as the best candidate for the job.

"I have rarely seen such a diverse group of faculty so unanimously high in its praise for that person."

Campbell said Massengale apparently thought that none of the five people were what he wanted, and added that he did not know of any specific reasons for Massengale's decision.

"I don't think anybody does except Chancellor Massengale," he said.



Daily Nebraskan File Photo

Martin Massengale

Nebraskans to face slight increase in 1983 taxes

By Deb Kollars

Nebraska tax revenues will probably only slightly increase because of the \$98.3 billion tax bill passed last week by Congress, Charles Bacon, executive vice president of the Nebraska Tax Research Council, said.

Recent reports indicate that President Reagan, who fought long and hard to have the bill passed, will sign the bill within the next few days.

"For some Nebraskans, there will be

slight increases in federal taxes because of the bill. That means they'll pay more state taxes," Bacon said.

"But for the most part, the bill probably won't have a lot of effect on Nebraska tax revenues," he added.

State individual and corporate income taxes, Bacon explained, are based on federal taxable income. Nebraskans pay a flat 15 percent of their federal taxes in state taxes. Therefore, since the new federal law increases taxable income,

it would expand the state tax base, he said.

Under the new bill, the federal cigarette tax will double to 16 cents a pack and the 1 percent tax on telephone service will triple. The bill also will require that 10 percent of most dividends and interest be withheld for taxes, reduce deductions for medical expenses and casualty losses, raise the 5 percent tax on air fares to 8 percent starting Sept. 1 and toughen the "minimum tax" on high-income investors. Further, in an effort to catch some \$98 billion in taxes

that are evaded each year, the bill will require that citizens more accurately report income earned from tips, state tax refunds and investments.

The across-the-board cut in personal tax rates enacted last year will remain intact. However, the new measure will wipe out about one-third of the 1981 business tax reductions.

Since most tax increases will take effect next Jan. 1, that's when any increases in state tax revenues would show up, Bacon said.

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