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NU officials plead for university's life at hearing

By Pat Higgins

NU cannot absorb any more cuts in its budgets without grave damage to the university, NU President Ronald Roskens said Monday.

Roskens led a delegation of NU officials including the chancellors from UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center, the president of the UNL Faculty Senate and the president of ASUN.

Roskens and the delegation appeared before the Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature, chaired by state Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly. Warner welcomed the visit to the "annual fall meeting" of the Appropriations Committee.

The entourage pleaded for an exemption on the cuts as they all agreed that NU already has been cut to the bone. Roskens said that NU has been a full participant in past budget reductions, citing last year's \$4.3 million cut.

Because of past cuts, he said, NU has had to eliminate a number of scholastic programs and 141 jobs. If the proposed 3.5 percent cut is passed, \$5.1 million would be lost from the NU budget.

"This is more than we can bear,"

Roskens told the committee.

Libraries being eroded

Roskens listed a number of areas where NU is in trouble.

Libraries, "the very heart of a university," are being seriously eroded, he said. There is an inclination to think of libraries as being of lesser consequence but they are essential to research and instruction, he said.

Cuts in the equipment budget have led to cancellations of courses in the chemistry departments because of obsolete equipment. Agricultural courses also have been unable to replace needed equipment, Roskens said.

Travel budgets are an absolute necessity for instruction and research, he said. Travel is essential for the extension division, which is a main part of NU's public service to the state.

Salaries have lost ground in real terms, which causes the loss of first-rate faculty, he said. Salary increases in other Big Eight schools for this academic year range from 7.5 percent to 13 percent. NU's 2.5 percent raise would be eliminated if the Thone budget cuts are adopted.

NU is still a first-rate institution that can boast areas of excellence, Roskens said. The chemistry, animal science and the

journalism departments are all highly regarded, he said.

"An investment in the University of Nebraska is an investment in the future of the state," Roskens said. "The reduction of the budget would cause serious long-term problems that would take literally years to rebuild."

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said UNL's mission to provide service to the state couldn't be performed well if the budget is cut further.

Only jobs of certain staff members, such as "relatively low-paid" workers, including secretaries, could be terminated at this time, he said. Eliminating these positions could be counter-productive because unemployment compensation would have to be paid.

Quality education endangered

"As chancellor of UNL, I accept responsibility to the state but I must tell you that the quality of education at UNL is endangered," Massengale said.

Roy Arnold, vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said Nebraska is one of the top sellers of farm commodities in the country but that research is rapidly declining due to past cuts. Some extension

offices at the county level have had to close, Arnold said.

Delbert Weber, chancellor at UNO, said UNO's 1982-83 budget is already below the 1980-81 level.

"I think we have to remember that it's the students who get hurt the most when the budgets are cut," Weber said.

James Griesen, interim chancellor at the NU Medical Center, said the cost of educating health professionals is high but that it pays great dividends. The med center is ranked 82 out of 118 schools nationwide in expenditures per student. The Dentistry College is 34 out of 35 in expenditures per student.

"The medical center has to meet stringent standards in order to preserve quality. Our equipment is becoming obsolete," Griesen said.

UNL Faculty Senate President Larry Walklin said the proposed cuts would cause a decline in teaching quality. UNL is in danger of becoming second-rate if quality faculty leave, he said.

Dan Wedekind, ASUN president and student regent, said education is not a luxury but is a vital part of the state.

"I don't want UNL to become a generic brand school. We need brand-name education," Wedekind told the committee.

Summer session cut opposed

By Bill Allen

Robert Patterson, director and associate dean of summer sessions, said that cutting out one of the summer sessions would not benefit long-run cost effectiveness.

He was referring to state Sen. Rex Haberman of Imperial's plan to present a bill to the special legislative session that would do just that.

Patterson described the summer sessions as a "no-frills operation" that does not lose money for the university.

Haberman said he sent letters out to all the state colleges and universities to determine how much could be saved by this action but so far has received no formal response.

He attributed this to the fact that most institutions are busy with budget work at this time. He said, though, that eliminating one summer session should "cut costs right in half."

Patterson said cutting a session would affect about 33 percent of the summer students.

Last year, he said, 2,573 students registered for the pre-session, 7,235 for

the first session and 5,211 for the second.

Patterson said Haberman seems to be interested in eliminating the second session.

The 1981 enrollment for summer sessions went up almost 2,000 students from the 1980 figure, Patterson said.

He also said UNL has the only comprehensive summer program in Nebraska and that there are actually more graduate students enrolled in the summer than in the regular academic year.

Patterson said that on request he provided the acting vice chancellor of academic affairs, R. Neale Copple, with income figures and the amount of state funding summer sessions received.

Dan Wedekind, ASUN president, said he doesn't think the solution is that simple.

"I think there are a lot of other things to be considered," Wedekind said. "Many of those summer session classes are filled with students that can't take the classes during the regular academic year."

"Also I would have to ask if such a bill would indeed save money," he said. "I don't feel that that's a solution."

Search committee seeks Arts and Sciences dean

An Arts and Sciences Advisory Board search committee had an organizational meeting Thursday that was the first step in choosing a permanent dean for the college.

The College of Arts and Sciences, one of UNL's largest colleges, has been without a permanent dean since Max Larsen left the position last year. Gerhard Meisels, chemistry professor, is the interim dean.

The 12-member committee, which consists of professors, one alumna and one student, introduced themselves and determined how the position will be advertised at its first meeting.

Miguel Carranza, associate professor of sociology, said the position will be advertised primarily in academic chronicles, such as the Chronicle of Higher Education, and at various academic institutions.

He said the committee is trying for a "wide dispersal of the position opening" to get "as many candidates as possible."

Carranza said the committee is

looking for a candidate with administrative experience at the departmental level and someone who can handle the wide variety of experiences in arts and sciences.

Carranza said a candidate will be chosen sometime in February or March at the earliest.

The group's next meeting probably will be during the first week of December, he said.

The committee members are Carranza; Hazel Crain, director of Business and Vocational Teacher Education Center; Marge Dalton, an alumna; James Eisentrager, professor of art; Raymond Hagg, director of the School of Music; Thomas Hubbard, acting chairman and professor of accounting; Frederick Link, chairman and professor of English; Lester Lipsky, professor of computer science; Doran Matzke, student; Irvin Omtvedt, professor of animal science; Ted Parady, associate professor in the School of Life Sciences; and Frank Ullmann, professor of electrical engineering.



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Lincoln commuters brave a chill Monday afternoon wind to catch a ride at the bus stop on Q Street between 12th and 13th streets.