

# Daily Nebraskan

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## 10 percent tuition surcharge confronts students

By Duane Retzlaff

Tuition at the University of Nebraska for the spring semester will be 10 percent higher for most students as a result of a tuition surcharge approved Saturday by the NU Board of Regents.

The first-ever surcharge at NU is hoped to offset approximately \$1.2 million of

The regents amended NU President Ronald Roskens's original surcharge proposal of 12 percent and 15 percent, respectively, after being assured by university administrators that the extra \$225,000 could be made up with cuts elsewhere.

Roskens said he didn't like raising tuition, but that the alternatives would be more damaging to the university.

One option, he said, would be to delay the 2.5 percent faculty pay raise scheduled for Jan. 1. However, none of the administrators, regents or student regents at the meeting said they supported such a move.

Another option would be to cut the \$3.5 million from the budget, Roskens said, but that would make it necessary to eliminate some existing teaching positions.

### \$35.47 per credit hour

With the 10 percent surcharge, students will pay \$35.47 per credit hour, up from the present \$32.25. A student taking 15

credit hours would pay \$532.05, an increase of about \$48.

In addition to the surcharge, an extra \$2.3 million will have to be cut from the budget.

Since tuition pays for 32 percent of the instructional budget, Roskens said, it was decided that it would be only fair for students to pay for one-third of the budget shortfall.

UNO Student Regent Florene Langford said she is concerned that students are bearing an unproportionate amount of the budget cut, and suggested money could instead be taken from capital construction projects.

Roskens said the legislature appropriates money separately for capital construction, and the Legislature could not answer a special request until February or March, which is too late.

### Alcohol tax proposed

Nette Nelson, speaking for ASUN's

Government Liaison Committee, said some students had suggested in a forum Thursday that a tax, similar to the one placed on cigarettes, be placed on alcohol in order to raise money for the university.

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff read a prepared statement, calling for bolder action to deal with the university's problems.

The university, Simmons said, shouldn't be everything to everybody, and should only devote itself to teaching "the prepared and the motivated" students. He added that the university's research operations are vital to the state and should be strongly supported.

Simmons said he was concerned that the tuition surcharge could actually cause revenues to fall, because many students could actually cause revenues to fall, because many students could be forced to take less hours or to drop out.

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the \$3.5 million the Nebraska Legislature cut from the university budget in its special session two weeks ago.

On a 7-1 vote, with Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber dissenting, the board voted to institute a 10 percent surcharge for all students except for Medical, dentistry and pharmacy students, who face a 13 percent surcharge.

## Sileven determined to continue fighting state regulation

The Rev. Everett Sileven has yet to win a battle in his fight over state regulation of Christian schools. But the war is far from over.

In a panel discussion sponsored by the Nebraska chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, Sileven said he will reopen the Faith Christian School in Louisville Dec. 1 and go to jail.

Other panelists were Nebraska Attorney General Paul Douglas; Herb Schimek, government relations director of the Nebraska State Education Association; state Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, substituting for state Sen. Gerald Koch of Ralston, who is chairman of the Legislature's Education Committee; and the Rev. Larry Lautaret, pastor of the First Church of God in Kearney and vice chairman of Nebraskans for Religious Freedom.

Sileven is currently free from jail because he agreed to close the school while he sought legislative support for his cause. The special session of the Legislature refused to consider legislation on the issue.

Douglas said the issue of state regulations of private schools seems to be at an impasse since neither side is willing to compromise. He said the only solution at this time is for the church to change its stance, the state to concede to the church or the church following in Louisville to leave the state.

When asked if he will try to seek support for his cause in the January session of the Legislature, Sileven said he would probably be sleeping in the Cass County Jail. But Sileven said he and his supporters would indeed try to get support.

Sileven said that he could spend the rest of his life in jail because as long as he tries to open his school, he will remain in contempt of court.

Wesely said the mood of the people and the mood of the Legislature is to keep the existing rules and he sees no possibility of a change.



Photo by Dulcie Shoener

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, from left, Attorney General Paul Douglas, moderator David Ahrendts, the Rev. Everett Sileven and the Rev. Larry Lautaret participate in a panel discussion sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

In response to a question about the participation of the press in the recent controversy, Sileven said the only thing he knows is that whenever he travels around the country, he receives a positive reaction, but in Nebraska it is negative. When he was reminded that the press' role is supposed to be neutral, Sileven said, "It's impossible to be neutral."

Lautaret gave his opinion about the press, saying that he had been grossly misquoted and made to look like a "nut." He said that it may be a society of journalists, but "the term 'professional' is up for grabbies."

Douglas said that he perceived a change in the mood of the people during the controversy. He said that originally, people thought the followers at Faith Christian were right, but after watching the "antics that went on there," the mood changed against them.

Wesely agreed with Douglas, saying that the Legislature was turned off by the tactics used by the church and other outside supporters.

Sileven said that people in Washington, D.C., are very disturbed by the amount of force used to close a school. He also said that a possible solution could come from Washington.

In response to a question about the state's responsibility in assisting Cass County and the district court, Douglas said it is indeed the state's responsibility to help.

He said he didn't want to be critical, but it is possible that Cass County District Judge Raymond Case acted prematurely when he released Sileven. He said that if Case or Cass County Sheriff Fred Tesch had asked the state for help, they would have received it.



Photo courtesy of S. Ariweriokuma

Soala Ariweriokuma

## Nigerian to lead international student group

By Janet H. Chu

Soala Ariweriokuma of Nigeria was chosen the new president of the UNL International Students' Organization during elections Friday in the Nebraska Union. Other students elected to the organization's executive board were Nila Davda, vice president; Saeed Bahramzad, social secretary; and Khader Khayyat, ASUN representative.

A representative from each of 39 foreign countries with students attending UNL voted in the election.

Ariweriokuma said he believed he had a good chance of winning.

"I felt some of the things I want to accomplish were consistent with many members of the organization. I encourage all foreign students to actively participate in meetings," he said.

In his speech Ariweriokuma, a graduate

student in educational administration, emphasized the need for better communication between the ISO and ASUN.

"I will advocate active voice of ISO in the ASUN. I will express and insist and ensure that we are represented," he said.

Ariweriokuma said he would like to create special job channels within the university system for students who, due to major emergencies, fail to receive money at expected times. He also said he will try to freeze foreign student tuition increases for at least one year.

Among his other goals are persuading university officials to give the Host Family Association special recognition, bridging the gap between American and international students by encouraging American students to participate in ISO meetings and activities, and advocating broader news coverage and publicity

efforts.

Davda, the new vice president, is a sophomore chemical engineering major from Tanzania. She said the organization has concentrated too much on social activities. She suggested that new foreign students be greeted and received at the airport.

"Perhaps one of the most frustrating experiences for a new student is to arrive at the airport and be greeted by a poster — a poster telling you how to get to the university, etc. And posters cannot compare with personal presence at the airport," she said.

Davda also emphasized one of the goals of the ISO constitution, which is to act as a liaison between international students and ASUN. After talking with ASUN President Dan Wedekind, Davda said she is encouraged by the interest in international students.