

Budget, culture center top Union Board agenda

By Ward W. Triplett III

Requests for an increased Nebraska Union budget and plans for a new culture center were presented Wednesday at the Union Board's first spring semester meeting.

The union budget request includes increases in university program facilities and fees requests - \$154,925 for union utilities, \$23,225 for reduced net income, \$12,400 for employee health insurance increases, \$5,757 for student and staff labor increases and \$3,656 for operating expenses increases.

The student programs fees request to cover the projected 1982-83 net loss is \$20,340, while \$13,173 is budgeted to cover additional operating expenses for a new culture center.

Requested student program fee increases totaled \$233,476, equaling a fee increase of \$5.02 per student. The unions had decreased their fee request the past five years, but the utilities, which the unions will pay 45 percent of next fall, added \$3.33 to student fees.

Of the seven increase areas, only the culture center question was debated at Wednesday's meeting. Finance Committee Chairman Tim O'Keeffe suggested a new building be considered before passing the request.

"We've all been to the Culture Center, and we know we need a new one," O'Keeffe said. O'Keeffe added that a little more money would be spent on a new structure, but a much better job could be done.

The existing Culture Center, 1012 N. 16th St., was evaluated by the university Physical Plant two years ago and judged to be an adequate structure, unfit for modification. Last spring, a task force was appointed to find a new site for the center that would be closer to the center of campus.

One site selected was Terrace Hall, owned by the university but now leased to Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. The fraternity plans to vacate the building in May.

A feasibility study for the move was completed in December 1982. The study determined that Terrace

Hall, by virtue of being a university-owned facility, would fall under the UNL Student Fees and Facilities Revenue Bond, refunding series of 1964 and 1966. The bond, used for construction or renovation of university property, is funded by a fixed amount of student fees from each semester. University housing also pays into the bond fund.

The union, which has managed the Culture Center since 1977, also would be responsible for paying utility costs on the new building.

Union Board President Laura Meyer said that she opposed moving the Culture Center to Terrace Hall.

"I don't think that's the type of building suited for the Culture Center," Meyer said. "There's not a room large enough to handle functions."

Union Director Daryl Swanson said the bond possibly could cover a new building since it would be a satellite union of sorts. But the \$180,000 costs would make a new culture center 3,600 square feet, while the Terrace Garden building is 7,393 square feet.

Swanson said he does not like the new building approach, since no new buildings were being constructed by the University.

Culture Center personnel and the task force would be asked about the move and invited to the board's next meeting Jan. 19 in the Nebraska Union, Meyer said.

The final vote on the budget will take place then, one day before the union request is presented before the Committee for Fees Allocation.

"I think everyone agrees we want to spend the money," O'Keeffe said. "If we shoot this down, we have to commit ourselves to do everything we can to build an energy-efficient building as soon as possible."

Meyer reminded board members to continue recruiting possible Union Board applicants. Meyer and six other board members will leave the Union Board in February, opening seven positions. Representation by an accounting student and an architecture student are needed, he said.

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Police Report

The UNL Police Department received the following calls and complaints from 7 a.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday.

9:50 a.m. - Parking permit reported stolen from Parking Area 22.

4:14 p.m. - Past case involving stamp theft cleared, no arrest made.

4:50 p.m. - Watch reported stolen from men's restroom in Westbrook Music Building.

6:22 p.m. - People reported to be throwing snowballs at cars on 10th and R streets. Disturbance was handled by officers.

12:01 a.m. - Possible assault reported near Student Health Center. People gone when officers arrived.

2:01 a.m. - Wallet stolen Tuesday from Westbrook Music Building was recovered in trash can. Only cash was missing.



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