

Senators cut NU budget by \$6 million

By Terry Hyland

The State Legislature adopted an amendment Wednesday to cut \$6 million from the University of Nebraska's proposed 1983-84 budget. The amendment, added to the main budget bill, LB628, was adopted on a 26-12 vote.

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh sponsored the amendment, which drops the university budget from the \$153.6 million recommended by the Legislature's Appropriation Committee to \$147.6 million.

Reaction to the cut was mixed.

The office of NU President Ronald Roskens issued the following statement:

"We hope that the senators will carefully review the impact of this

proposal and restore funding to what already was an austere budget request.

"If this decision holds, however, it will mean severe reductions in personnel and programs. It will also make it impossible to maintain a traditional quality education program for the 40,000 students we serve, 95 percent of whom are residents of this state."

Gov. Bob Kerrey said he was pleased with the action from a budgetary standpoint, but added he was aware that the cuts may cause serious consequences.

Kerrey said he has not sacrificed his commitment to education by supporting the cut and expressed confidence that the university could absorb the cuts without serious damage.

In proposing the amendment, DeCamp said the budget cut's main purpose was to provide money for property tax relief,

especially for home owners.

He said Thursday that because the university system uses one-fourth of the state's budget, reductions in NU's budget had to be considered in paring the state's budget.

DeCamp said it is not possible for a state of Nebraska's size to support the kind of educational system that Nebraska has. Too many of the colleges in the state want to have university status, he said, and a state with only 1.5 million people cannot support that kind of educational system.

He said he favors a "super-strong" central university, with other colleges assuming their own functional roles.

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said he saw "the university being used as a scapegoat for property tax relief" and termed the cut "unreasonable."

He said he believed the university budget has been cut as much as possible and cited overcrowded classes, classes not being offered to students and the departure of quality faculty members from the university as problems existing because of an inadequate budget.

Wesely said he believes that many of the legislators are thinking in terms of the proposed regional veterinary college (which would be part of UNL) and not in terms of the total university. He noted that 20 of the 26 senators who voted for the budget cut voted Tuesday to advance the vet school bill.

Wesely said it may be possible to get some of the \$6 million reinstated in the budget. He said regaining \$3 million would put the university budget at the level recommended by the governor.

Placement program aids graduating law students

By Kevin Hanken

The economy is slow. Job opportunities are tight. Competing for those jobs available is a fact of life. Job hunters need to be persistent and undaunted by rejection. Preparing for the job hunting stage can in itself be an education.

At UNL's College of Law, the job placement program has emerged as a prudent, versatile and viable addition to the education of its students.

When John Strong, now vice chancellor of academic affairs, stepped in as dean of the law school in 1977, the placement program was extended a higher priority status than in previous years. Two years ago Strong hired Janet Krause to head the program.

Acting Assistant Dean Krause's philosophy maintains that a law school's responsibility is to not only prepare students as lawyers, but to help them find their first job as well.

When one looks over the program she has built and how she has structured it, her title as acting assistant dean might come across as something of a misnomer. "Coach" would seem a more fitting term.

Embedded in Krause's philosophy is the old sport maxim "teamwork." By dipping into the resources of the law college, she has put together a Student Placement Advisory Committee, comprised of nearly 40 members and divided into subcommittees.

"Our students are very bright, very capable and professional people, and when they come to us they have a degree

in hand and some job experience. And with that talent they contribute a lot," Krause said.

Jan Beran, a senior law student, served as this year's chairman of the placement committee. Beran was awarded a plaque as standout contributor to the placement program. One of his accomplishments has been to establish a Job Placement Library at the law school.

Using the National Association of Law Placement Recommendations Library Bibliography, Beran put together a room of information covering various fields of the legal practice. Krause called his efforts outstanding.

One of the student subcommittees sponsors a series of placement seminars at the law college throughout the school year.

Krause said that a result of the seminar with the trust officers, she was able to develop an internship program with a local bank.

Another subcommittee has helped to organize a conference to be in Omaha Oct. 21 and 22. For the first time, seven mid-western law schools have cooperated to create this Central Regional Law Placement Conference. Thousands of firms, corporations and agencies are being invited to attend this conference to interview students for possible employment.

Junior law student Barb Berry has worked hard to put the conference together. Krause said. Berry and her staff of about 20 have set up a mailing list for all 50 states.

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Administration heart of university

Editor's note: This is the first article of a two-part series on the Central Administration.

By Mona Koppelman

Attacked by many, known by few, the NU Central Administration is an enigma. From its headquarters at Regents Hall, various officials make few appearances yearly, and when they do, the repercussions are felt in the academic sphere... affecting tuition, the budget and insurance policies.

In December 1979, the Central Administration came under the fire of the UNL Faculty Senate. The senate unanimously accepted a resolution stating that the university can't afford two levels of administration. The senate asked the NU Board of Regents to eliminate some central administration offices that "duplicated similar structures on each of the campuses."

In October 1980, ASUN passed a bill forming an ad-hoc committee to "investigate and reveal the power structure of the NU Central Administration." Former ASUN Sen. Tim Rinne said the bill was a result of the lack of response to the faculty senate's December 1979 resolution. Rinne said the only answer came in the form of "an investigation of Ronald Roskens by Ronald Roskens."

Roskens was questioned by Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly about the purpose of the Central Administration at the Legislative Appropriations Committee hearing earlier this spring.

"Since the University of Nebraska was established as a three-campus system, both the regents and the Legislature have been quite firm in their commitment to

the concept (of Central Administration)," Roskens said.

"The Central Administration serves as the central point for the establishment of

policy to be recommended to the regents for the general operation of the university in as clear and consistent and, hopefully, as efficient manner as possible," Roskens

Top administrators described

"The Central Administration is the administrative arm of the NU Board of Regents," James Raglin, director of public affairs, said. "The decisions the board of regents make are executed or basically given to the people in this building (Regents Hall) to see that they are implemented."

Raglin describes the duties of each of the six biggest players in the Central Administration in the following paragraphs:

Ronald Roskens, president of the University of Nebraska, salary \$76,500. "Roskens is the chief executive officer of the university. He is the boss of the chancellors. Roskens tries to develop overall administrative policies for the benefit of the entire university network."

Howard Ottoson, executive vice president of Academic Affairs, \$58,000. "Ottoson is the number-two guy on the roster. Each campus has a vice chancellor or vice chancellor for academic affairs. Ottoson is their contact person for the regents."

Alan Seagren, vice president for Administration, \$59,000. "Seagren is the chief business officer. He is the business contact for the business officers on each campus."

William Swanson, vice president for governmental relations and corporation secretary, \$51,000. "He

has a dual job... secretary and lobbyist. He takes notes at all the regents' meetings, sets up the meetings... getting eight people from scattered around the state and three students together to sit as a board. There are people from each campus assigned to help him lobby, but he is the lobbyist."

Richard Wood, general counsel, \$53,200. "Dick runs all of the legal business. He can represent us in court, he signs codicils, checks over wills and writes about grievance procedures."

Hans Brisch, executive assistant to the president, \$48,800. "He has a lot of contact with the campuses. He's kind of a 'sensor,' sensing moods and things like that. He's not a spy, either. He knows a lot of faculty, and they tell him things. He helps Roskens a lot in formulation of administrative policies. He also assists in planning the president's schedule, and that's pretty damn important."

Raglin said these men usually compose the president's cabinet, with himself included.

"We meet every Monday morning at 7:30 and just generally talk about whatever anybody chooses to bring up," Raglin said. "It's very seldom formatted. We're very free under the Roskens administration. There's really no holds barred, so it's kind of an interesting group."

said.

The 30 full-time and four part-time employees of the Central Administration pull down a total of more than \$864,000 in salaries to form "clear, consistent policy."

James Raglin, director of public affairs, said he was "quite sure there's no university of this size that has so few people in its Central Administration."

Raglin explained that though Central Administration commands 2 percent of the university budget, almost half of that is tied up in the vast computer network serving all three campuses, but which operates out of Central Administration funds. The number of employees involved with computers numbers 66, nearly twice that of the Central Administration.

"I guess you have to look at this pretty much like your basic corporation," Raglin said. "This building could be the corporation's headquarters. The three campuses and all their satellites could be holdings of the corporation. They each have a corporate head. They all get together at a board meeting and then they make a presentation to the outside board which is the board of regents."

"The regents in turn then say, 'OK, it's going to be A instead of B or C.' Then, they turn it back over to this building and we (the Central Administration) have to manage the plans. We in turn disperse some responsibility."

"That's how it's supposed to function. And it does, I think, moderately well. There are times when things get out of hand. I suppose that's inevitable."

Part Two will focus on the past and present relationship between the university faculty and the Central Administration.