

NU BUDGET CUT

Regents ask Legislature to restore needed support

By Lori Merryman

The tentative \$6 million cut by the state Legislature of the NU 1983-84 budget would mean a loss of jobs for 65 UNL employees, 35 UNO employees and 35 Medical Center employees, Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha said at the NU Board of Regents meeting Saturday. NU President Ronald Roskens also criticized the cut.

"Should this reduction continue to be supported by the Legislature, the impact upon the university would severely damage its ability to deliver quality education to some 38,000 young Nebraskans, and others who trust us with their minds," Roskens said.

The regents unanimously approved a resolution "urging the Legislature to focus attention on the quality of higher education in Nebraska and restore this needed financial support to its university."

The Legislature's decision to cut the budget came Wednesday when it adopted an amendment sponsored by Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh. DeCamp told his colleagues the amendment was a way to find money in the state budget for property tax relief.

DeCamp's amendment reduced the NU budget proposed by the Legislature's Appropriations Committee from \$153.6 million to \$147.6 million.

Roskens said that if the university must deal "with a \$6 million reduction from an already austere budget," the 3.5 percent salary increases in the Appropriations Committee's guidelines might have to be bypassed. Also, there would be a reduction

in other personnel and programs, he said. "We will be forced to reduce purchase of essential goods and services — which, by the way, were included in the Appropriation Committee's recommended budget for this university," Roskens said.

Other sacrifices would be foregoing library acquisitions and delaying equipment replacement, he said.

What the Legislature is saying with LB628, Hansen said, "is that if you want to do anything else, other than general operating expenses, you'll have to sock it to the students with a tuition increase."

"I am astonished that some senators seem to place such a low priority on higher education," Roskens said.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said Sen. DeCamp used "very questionable reasoning." Schwartzkopf said he wondered if the senators considered the carefully established guidelines of their own appropriations committee.

In other action, the board voted unanimously in favor of a new employee health insurance plan with Mutual of Omaha to begin in August.

The plan will cost more for participants, but encourages using less costly procedures such as outpatient surgery, said John Russell, NU director of personnel services.

The new plan will establish a health care plan that will allow employees to choose between higher levels of coverage at higher cost and lower levels of coverage at lower cost, Russell said. The low-option coverage will be highly attractive to lower-income employees, who may otherwise

have been "priced out" of family coverage, and to other employees who prefer a lower-cost plan, he said.

The high-option plan includes the same deductible — \$125 for an individual or \$250 for a family — as the current health plan with Aetna Life and Casualty. But the employee will pay a higher percentage of the total medical bill. Under the high-option plan, the employee will pay 20 percent of his health care bill; currently employees pay 10 percent.

The low-option plan has a \$200 deductible with \$400 per family. The individual pays 30 percent of his health care bill.

While the board voted unanimously to approve the new Mutual of Omaha plan, it was split, 4-3, in deciding whether to install a two-tiered premium structure for Lincoln and Omaha.

The regents voted to keep the program uniform.

A two-tiered structure has been investigated since January when UNL faculty members and employees expressed anger at subsidizing high care costs for UNO and the NU Medical Center.

So far in the 1982-83 fiscal year, Lincoln employees have paid \$465,690 more in premiums than received in claims, while Omaha employees have paid \$52,941 more in premiums than received in claims.

Separating the premium structures would have caused rates for Omaha employees to increase by 11 percent.

"An additional 11 percent increase would have a crushing blow to employees and some would not be able to have health insurance," said Marge Krawczyk, a member of the medical center faculty senate.

Larry Walklin, president of the UNL faculty senate, told the board UNL employees continue to endorse a local option.

"Continued subsidization every year provides a loss of understanding between the campuses," Walklin said.

Hansen said that the university, as an employer, has "to be aware of discrepancies."

Schwartzkopf said the discrepancies have existed too long.

"I'm embarrassed that we as a board have permitted these discrepancies to go on as long as they have," he said. There has been a discrepancy between the campuses since 1977.

"We need to compensate for what the Lincoln campus has endured," Schwartzkopf said.

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff said he did not think the Lincoln campus was subsidizing Omaha's insurance plan. "Nobody is subsidizing anybody," he said. "Those who are lucky pay more than those who draw."

In order to make costs fairer for both Lincoln and Omaha employees, the board voted to end the 10-percent discount that employees now receive when they are treated at the medical center. The board also asked that Russell make every effort possible to resolve apparent discrepancies.

Board approves O'Hanlon as Teachers College dean

By Lori Merryman

Acting dean of UNL's Teachers College, James P. O'Hanlon, was approved unanimously as the new dean of the college by the NU Board of Regents Saturday.

O'Hanlon, a Blair native, received his bachelor's and doctorate of education degrees from UNL and his master's degree from Ohio State University.

O'Hanlon, who has been acting dean of Teachers College since July, will receive an annual salary of \$58,600.

"We believe his leadership as an admini-

strator and excellence as an educator will provide strong leadership for UNL's Teachers College," UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said.

O'Hanlon joined the UNL staff in 1966. He was chairman of physical education in the Department of Health from 1975 to 1977, director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation from 1977 to 1982 and coordinator of freshman affairs from 1973 to 1974.

He is former chairman of the Nebraska Coordinating Council for Postsecondary Education, a member of the Governor's

Commission on University Funding, a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Commission on Teacher Education and a 1972 recipient of the UNL Distinguished Teaching Award.

In other action, the board — Increased tuition for correspondence courses. Nebraska residents will pay \$44 per credit hour, a \$2 increase. Non-resident tuition will increase from \$44 per credit hour to \$46.

— Approved an Educational Specialist Degree at the UNL Teachers College. The specialist degree is an avenue of preparing educational practitioners for admini-

strative, guidance, supervisor and other specialized positions in public and private schools. It is designed for people needing preparation beyond the master's degree level, but not needing to complete a doctoral program.

— Approved increases in rental rates for Love Memorial Co-op Hall (effective in the 1983 fall semester) and for University Park and Colonial Terrace Apartments (effective July, 1 1983).

— Heard Massengale announce that some UNL football tickets would be made available to NU Medical Center students.

UNL may acquire mini-computer for classroom use

By Jann Nyffeler

Contrary to rumor, academic — not administrative — computing at UNL will benefit from \$500,000 earmarked for computing by the NU Foundation.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs John Strong said in an interview Friday that academic and administrative computing "have to be divorced from each other. By nature, they're incompatible."

Strong, who has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating academic computing, said there is a good chance the university will acquire a mini-computer "appropriate for and to be used in instruction" in the near future. The primary function of this computer, as dictated by phase one of the plan to update UNL's computing facilities, will be to serve computer science undergraduates and other large departments like the hard sciences such as physics and chemistry, he said.

In the second phase of the plan, \$200,000 from emery savings will be used to benefit small users. These users tend to have different needs than those of heavy users like the computer science department.

Ed Anderson, assistant dean and director of the Engineering Research Center, is investigating current computer usage trends to pinpoint the departments with the greatest concentration of student users. Data for accumulating this information is minimal, based primarily on cumulative dollar amounts of billings to each department by Computing Services.

At a joint meeting of the computational services and facilities committee and the executive committee of the faculty senate Thursday, Jerry Burkey of Computing Services said the billings are not necessarily a good estimation of departmental use. He said billings are made up of various rates charged for different types and priorities

of computing.

Anderson's findings apparently will be used to aid in determining which departments will benefit most from the foundation money.

There is no economic advantage to combining academic computing with the Computing Services, Strong said. The Computing Services network, located in Nebraska Hall, is not a part of UNL, but rather of the university's central administration, serving all NU campuses.

Strong claims that the network hasn't been responsive to academic user priorities. Persons with academic computing needs frequently take the back seat to administrative computing activity.

"The average user doesn't need that large a machine," he said. "Let's equip them at a lower level; give them more input to what will serve them."

"If we can reduce demands on the network, then they can reduce their budget

— personnel and machinery." The academic half of the network's budget can in effect be transferred to UNL, allowing the university to "provide better, more tailored computing to some units," Strong said. "There will still be instances of large users (department) purchasing service from the network if they are the most economical supplier," Strong added. "What can be done on the lower level will be done there," he said.

Strong said the entire plan should eliminate some money from UNL's commitment to the network. Some persons now employed by the network may be hired by UNL staff and maintain the academic branch, he said. UNL also is advertising now for a campus computing director.

During the meeting Thursday, Strong said that equipment vendors estimate that hardware ordered immediately won't be delivered until middle to late summer.