

Budget cuts damper department devel

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Operating expenses, such as postage and phone charges could be cut, but that would cause some difficulties, Luckner said.

Luckner said his department could handle an increase in class size without hurting the quality of education. Introduction classes now have 30 students; this could be increased to 40, he said.

"The economy has adversely impacted a lot of factors of life, and the university has suffered," Luckner said.

In the future, Luckner said, he hopes his department can continue to attract and produce the same high quality of students it has been producing for the last few years.

In the Institute for International Studies, reducing the budget means less information and services for students who go abroad to study, Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, its director, said.

Esquenazi-Mayo said the institute has no direct teaching assignments, because all of its teaching is done through academic departments such as history or political science.

The Institute for International Studies works through departments to coordinate various learning experiences, such as overseas graduate study in Europe, Latin America and other countries.

To cope with last year's budget cuts, the institute reduced operational funds. Thus, the number of scholarly services and information on grants were reduced.

Although about 800 university students apply and qualify for international studies through the institute, the staff consists of just two full-time staff members and some work-study employees, Esquenazi-Mayo said.

"We need more support assistance and personnel in the office to prepare proposals and provide necessary information on a day-to-day basis to students and faculty," he said.

Esquenazi-Mayo said the institute will have an expanded role in the future because the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has asked his office to coordinate all international activities.

In addition, he said, the chancellor has asked that an advisory council for all international programs within the city work through the Institute for International Studies office.

The only way the work can be done with the small staff is through the dedication of some students and the selfless dedication of faculty members, Esquenazi-Mayo said.

"We need to think about the future of the state, and the university is it," he said. "In the 20th century, our students will have to compete with all others. It behooves each one of us to provide the best institution and education for students."

Esquenazi-Mayo said UNL students have been successful in national competition for Fulbright Grants, which offer students the opportunity to study abroad. The Fulbright grants cover costs of transportation, tuition and fees and health insurance, and includes a monthly allowance for each student, he said.

Like the Institute for International Studies, the ethnic studies department

is affected directly by what happens in other departments because the classes are taught by joint appointment. For example, the faculty salaries are paid 40 percent by the ethnic studies department and 60 percent by another department, such as history.

Ralph Grajeda, director, said that although the Ethnic Studies department has very small equipment expenses, they were cut like those of other departments last year. For example, the amount spent on long distance telephone calls, travel expenses and copying was reduced.

Enrollment also has been affected by budget cuts, Grajeda said. Most ethnic studies courses are cross-listed under another department, such as English or history. Since ethnic studies courses are of a service nature, the number offered has decreased in the last few years. However, Grajeda said, the number may increase because new general requirements will include three hours of ethnic studies.

"Students now are more professionally oriented, and a lot are business majors," Grajeda said. "A lot of people see arts and sciences as kind of extras, additions to the real thing of getting a degree. But, without the College of Arts and Sciences, the university would just be a technical school."

Grajeda said he believes the college's financial problems come from the upper reaches of the state's tax structure.

"State legislators identify the university with a larger state budget. They immediately identify it as a place to knock off a bunch of waste," he said. "There comes a point where it's no longer waste, but flesh. The quality of education is affected."

The priorities set by the university are sometimes rather short term, but they should be long term, Grajeda said.

In the future, he said, the ethnic studies department desperately needs to have black studies faculty members.

In the sociology department, enrollment has increased considerably, in the past five years, while the budget has either stayed the same or been reduced, chairman Jack Siegman said.

"Our class sizes have always been big, and they haven't reduced," Siegman said. "Last year we cut out our graduate student teaching assistants, and we also offered fewer courses."

However, Siegman said, the department did get some graduate teaching assistant money from the dean's office, so the situation was not as bleak as had been expected.

Besides lowering funds for staffing, the sociology department has reduced the operating budget, which finances things such as paper, pencils, machinery and films.

"We have shown fewer films in the last three years than ever before," he said. "These are award-winning films, and we are not able to show them."

Siegman said the department also has put a limit on phone expenses and restricted copying and mailing.

The financial problems are not a result of mismanagement at the college level, Siegman said. The budgets are meager to start with, he said, adding that the administration is doing an excellent

job with declining resources.

Cutting peripheral university programs is not the answer to the problem, Siegman said. Most peripheral programs, such as the urban studies program, are offered at little or no cost because faculty from various departments participate in them.

"There are places to cut," Siegman said. "There is duplication of some of the things we do in Arts and Sciences. For example, English is taught in other parts of the campus."

Siegman said the issue is the amount of resources the state allocates to the university. Money is not spent foolishly or extravagantly, he said.

"There is a political mess in the state. It's the inability of the elected officials to plan and develop a structure of support for the university," Siegman said.

In the sociology department, starting salaries are considerably lower than those at other universities, he said. This could lead to a decline in the quality of applicants for faculty openings.

In the geology department, enrollment has more than doubled and the budget has decreased slightly, Chairman S.B. Treves said.

Treves said his department did several things in response to last year's budget cut:

- stopped buying office supplies for instructors
- charged fees for field trips
- restricted use of Xerox machine
- eliminated most class handouts
- increased lab and class size limits
- found it impossible to replace mineral and rock samples
- assigned three or four students to share the same map, rock, mineral or fossil
- used funds donated by industry and alumni to cover operational costs.

Treves said the geology department is important to the future of Nebraska because it teaches classes about water resources, the use of which is becoming a major issue in the state.

"We have the people, the expertise and the potential to help, but it requires money investments," Treves said.

Treves said the geology department has 12 faculty members, nine of which are full time. Given the budget situation, he said, he does not expect an increase in the number of faculty members.

With the larger class sizes, students get less individual attention, he said.

Treves said this is a very good time to hire professors, because the economy and business opportunities force people to leave professions.

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Kim Adams, a sophomore majoring in art education, finishes a bust Monday she has been working on for the past two weeks in Richard's Hall.