

Development in College of Arts and Sciences

Industry is not hiring all of these people, so the university has opportunities to hire them, Treves said.

In the speech communication department, course demand has increased 15 percent from five years ago, but "deadly mid-year budget cuts" have caused interim chairman James Klumpp to estimate that 700 students will have to be turned away from classes next fall.

Projected figures show that by general registration time, all sections will be closed and students will be able to get into a class only if someone drops it.

The department has never had such a dramatic cut in the number of sections offered, Klumpp said. Thirteen sections will be cut altogether, and classes will be expanded where possible.

"I worry that people won't believe me when I show them the cold hard numbers," he said.

A growing number of employers are placing more value on communication skills and course demand is up. The real problem, Klumpp said, is that any time students are turned away, the total number of students needing classes the next semester increases proportionately.

"We're one of those departments that was in trouble before any of this year's budget cuts came in; we're still reeling

from the last ones," Klumpp said.

Many speech classes can not be taught to a large number of students and still be effective, he said. So, in order to preserve the quality of the courses, the number of students admitted had to be cut when sections were eliminated.

Low salaries also result from budget cuts. In the past two years, three "key" faculty members from the department have gone to other universities, where they were offered \$3,000 to \$8,000 more than they were paid by UNL, Klumpp said. Faculty "raiding" between universities is becoming common, he said.

The anthropology department always has taught large introductory classes, but budget cuts have made the task increasingly difficult, chairman Peter Bleed said.

The cuts affect teaching assistants' salaries, equipment funds and the type of collections the department can fund, he said.

Although more students can be put into lecture sections when other sections are cut, it is hard to communicate with large numbers of students, Bleed said. This is especially true because the number of teaching assistants in the department has fallen from eight to two

in the last six years, and recitation sections have been eliminated, he said.

There are cycles in education funding, Bleed said. Now, funding for liberal arts is in a "down cycle."

"The presence of these cuts creates a negative feeling on campus, and the uncertainty of next year's budget also contributes to negative feeling," Bleed said.

The department has tried some innovative, streamlining programs to save money, he said. Using visual aids for teaching large classes and combining classes has been successful. The university is still good and a lot of basic optimism is still around, Bleed said.

The chairperson of the political science department, Susan Welch, said Nebraska has a relatively small state budget and a large part of that budget goes to NU. Welch said the university "presents an attractive target" for legislative budget cuts simply because of its size.

Recent studies show that many Nebraskans do value the university, but "it is difficult to translate those general attitudes into public policy," she said.

"There is no question that in Nebraska, the public is fiscally conservative and the Legislature is just not willing to take any sort of leadership," she said.

In particular, Welch said, the university's College of Arts and Sciences budget is vulnerable to cuts because it does not have as strong a political strength as the agriculture, business or engineering colleges do. However, she said probably no part of the university is adequately funded.

The College of Arts and Sciences is not affiliated with national accreditation agencies, such as the business or law colleges are. Because it is not, Arts and Sciences cannot use the threat of losing accreditation to avoid budget cuts, Welch said.

Determining the state budget is a "top-down process" that results in the university's essentially having to take what it gets, she said. Once a budget is decided, any mid-year cuts usually can come out only of teaching assistant salaries or the operating budgets, Welch said.

The last cuts forced the political science department to set a \$50 per year limit on photocopying and phone bills for faculty members and to reduce the graduate teaching assistant budget, which created a problem of increased workload, she said.

"We require students to write quite a bit in our classes, and it's difficult to

grade all the assignments," Welch said. "We're doing our best to accommodate the class demands, but it can't go on indefinitely."

Individualized classes, taught using computer terminals, are used for introductory courses, and larger sections are being planned for other courses, Welch said. Her department will try to hold the line at 70 students in the introductory classes although it faced a 29 percent increase in registration for the 100-level course this spring.

Students should contact members of the Legislature who voted for the budget cuts and provide them with concrete examples of how cuts have affected them, Welch said. Being turned away from courses or any other examples would help illustrate the need for better funding, she said.

"The only way it (the budget situation) is going to change is if students and their parents contact legislators," Welch said.

Quality simply costs money, music department chairman Raymond Haggh said. The problem with state-funded universities is that political concerns don't consider quality.

"I don't believe you can do anything well with all the funding cuts; it's like trying to do with candles when everybody else is using electric lights," Haggh said.

In music, many courses must be taught one-on-one, Haggh said. The method is expensive, but it is the only way to teach music effectively, he said. Music schools everywhere have individual lessons because they are "innate to the discipline," he said.

In view of the contribution music faculty members make to the city and to the university as a whole, they are "grossly underpaid," Haggh said.





The cuts to the music department budget have been notably bad only in the last two years, he said. The department probably is better off than many across the country, but the cuts have forced reductions in buying music for performing ensembles and materials used for teaching, Haggh said.

"Music is tightly bound to equipment; we can't do without instruments, recitals and recordings, and they are expensive," he said.

Budget cuts really don't stimulate innovation — they just put departments on a survival course, Haggh said. The effort that needs to be put into teaching is often directed to fighting budget cuts.

Students and their families have a vested interest in the operation of the university and should be concerned with funding reductions, Haggh said.

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