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Regents slash UNO funds; 21 faculty, 63 classes cut

By Kris Mullen

The NU Board of Regents decided Friday to cut \$554,114 from four UNO colleges and two campus-wide committees to meet UNO faculty pay raises.

The regents unanimously voted to make the cuts from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Fine Arts and Public Affairs and Community Service.

The cuts mean 21 UNO faculty and 63 classes will be eliminated, said Otto Bauer, UNO vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Non-personnel reductions include \$9,000 from the Improvement of Instruction Committee and more than \$41,000 from the University Research Committee.

Bauer estimated the annual tuition loss will be \$65,200. He said the eliminated classes will make it increasingly difficult for students to enroll in the classes they need in the departments affected.

Regents OK expansion of UNL Health Center

The NU Board of Regents Friday unanimously approved plans to renovate and expand the University Health Center.

The project calls for renovation of 22,000 square feet of the existing building at 15th and U streets and construction of an 11,600-square-foot addition.

The existing Health Center has 28,600 square feet of space distributed on three floors.

It was designed to serve 10,000 students when it was completed in 1958. Enrollment is now 24,000 students.

According to a summary presented to the board, UNL provides 53 percent fewer square feet per student than the average area provided by other Big Eight schools with similar health services.

Estimated cost of the project is \$2.75 million. Funding will come from surplus money in the university's student fees and facilities revenue bonds.

The expansion will increase operating costs, but the fee increase is estimated to be less than 49 cents per student per semester.

Tentatively, an architect will be selected in October and approved by the regents in November. Construction bids will be solicited in April 1984 and the project should be completed by January 1986.

Student leaders decry library hour cutbacks

Student leaders expressed concern about cutbacks in UNL library hours at a Friday morning press conference.

Bill Buntain, second vice president of ASUN, said the cutback, which will close all UNL libraries on home football game Saturdays this semester, will make using the library difficult for students who cannot get to it any other time.

Government Liaison Committee Chairperson Ruth Boham said she hoped the situation would change but that "it doesn't look good."

"We're consumers. We're paying for an education," Boham said. "If this is being cut, what's next?"

Gerald Rudolph, dean of libraries, said he made the decision to reduce library hours in July, when a \$70,000 shortage turned up on the operating cost budget.

Few people use the libraries on home football Saturdays, he said, and the decision was made to save money while inconveniencing the fewest people, he said.

Many students are unaware of the closings, Buntain said, adding that the libraries should stay open to help maintain a quality education at the university.

Rudolph said he was surprised that students had not been informed earlier about the closing plans. He said he sent a letter to all department chairmen, deans and faculty members in July to notify them of the change in schedules. Signs explaining the closings were to be posted around campus, but the signs arrived late, he said.

Rudolph, who was on vacation during most of the summer, said he will investigate why students were not notified of the closings until the second week of school.

Bauer said the cuts are significantly less severe than other options because a degree program is not eliminated and tenured faculty members will not be fired.

Joseph Wood, UNO faculty senate president, said the senate is concerned because the regents did not approach the state Legislature for supplemental funding.

The cuts were made to pay a faculty wage order issued by the Commission of Industrial Relations. The order includes a 6.6 percent retroactive pay raise for 1982-83 and a projected 3.3 percent raise for 1983-84.

Bauer said the cuts are severe. "Each will leave important needs unmet," he said.

In other action the board:
—defeated a measure, 4-4, to hire an architecture firm to study renovation of Architecture Hall and the Former Law building.

—approved the sale of \$11.4 million in revenue bonds to be used to renovate facilities on the three NU campuses.

—approved development of a needs statement to remodel the West Stadium area to accommodate a combination training table and study area. Funding for the \$1 million development will come from the Athletic Department and private contributions.

—agreed to buy \$1.5 million in computer equipment as part of a joint effort of Control Data Corporation of Minneapolis and UNL to provide training for high school students. The project will offer additional computer research facilities for faculty and students.

UNL faculty salary increase is Massengale's top priority this fall

By Mary Louise Knapp

Raising salaries for UNL faculty is the top priority for the chancellor's office this fall, UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said at a faculty breakfast Sunday morning in the East Union.

Massengale said the approval of an 11.1 percent salary increase request for UNL faculty by the NU Board of Regents Friday is an encouraging sign. The salary request was part of the 1984-85 budget request, which includes \$168 million in state funds and a 10 percent student tuition increase.

The regents also endorsed the use of land-grant institutions which belong to the American Association of Universities as comparison groups for UNL, he said. Each campus will have its own "peer group" of institutions against which to measure faculty salaries, he said.

"I want to assure you of my sensitivity to the salary situation and its effect on faculty morale," he said.

Budget reallocations and possible program cuts are other concerns in which the faculty should be involved, Massengale said.

The regents in July approved a proposal by NU President Ronald Roskens to reallocate 2 percent, or almost \$3 million of NU's 1984-85 budget. Massengale sent a letter to faculty and staff members in late August outlining procedures for the budgetary reallocation. The Central Administration must submit a list of possible programs to be cut to the regents by Dec. 10.

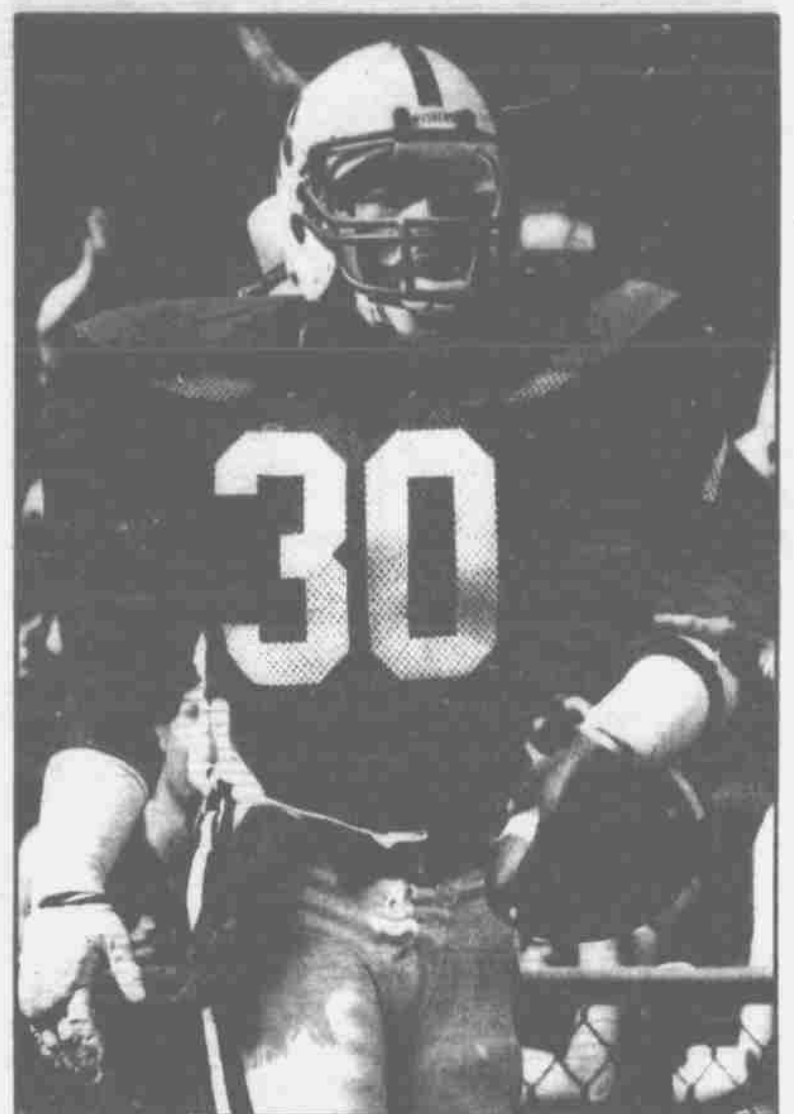
"We must work rapidly to meet the tight schedule," Massengale said. "I want all of you to feel you have a chance for input."

Massengale assured the faculty that any cuts in programs would be carried out with "fairness and equity" and that the NU administration would help find work for any staff members who might lose their jobs due to budget reallocations.

Although the budget reallocation is a serious concern, Massengale said it should not be allowed to interfere with the mission of the university.

"UNL serves as Nebraska's comprehensive land-grant university which offers a Ph.D. degree," Massengale said. "UNL ranks as a major research center. Research, teaching, and educational services is our basic mission."

Massengale said he is proud of the academic accomplishments of UNL's faculty and encouraged



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

Looking good

Husker I-back Mike Rozier made it look easy Saturday as his 191 rushing yards against Wyoming gave him 2,894 career yards and the Cornhusker all-time rushing record. The Huskers defeated Wyoming, 56-20. For story and more photos, see Page 8.

them to continue to strive for academic excellence. He also praised the quality of UNL's students.

"This year a new record will be set on the number of National Merit Scholars who attend UNL," he said. Five Fulbright Scholars were chosen from UNL last year, he said.

Massengale stressed the importance of a liberal arts education, and said UNL provides a quality example of such an education.

"The liberal arts must be a foundation for professional training. The state and nation need undergraduates with a broad background," he said.

The faculty also has a responsibility to present a "positive and constructive image" of UNL to new students, and encourage them to remain in the university.

"I want the faculty to be academic visionaries, not just survival managers," he said. "UNL must thrive, not just survive."

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