

Editorial

University needs realistic budget, not mediocrity

Looks like lean times for dear old NU. The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee approved the lowest budget increase for the university in memory last week.

The committee approved a 1.6 percent increase — about \$2.6 million. The NU Board of Regents had requested a 12.7 percent increase.

The good news is that the committee reinstated funds for Morrill Hall and included a meager 3 percent salary increase for faculty members. However, the final decision about where the money goes is up to the regents.

The bad news is, with an inflation rate of about 4 percent, the 1.6 percent increase is actually a cut — and a dramatic departure from increases of past years. That means there will be cuts — maybe entire programs at NU — if the full Legislature passes the recommended budget.

The minimal increase means more of what NU students are becoming accustomed to — bigger classes, weaker programs and higher tuition. The budget includes a planned 10 percent tuition increase to be matched with state funds.

Faculty members can expect a small salary increase — one that will surely keep them among the lowest paid of their peers.

The cut is a short-term solution to a large scale problem. Granted, the economy of this state is poor, but we cannot afford to gut higher education to save money. A weak university means more scholars leaving the state for a quality education, less quality research in our state, and as a result, less economic development and a low quality workforce.

Cutting the university's funds will make the budget work this year, but the costs to the state in the future are substantially greater.

Legislators shudder when the idea of a tax increase is mentioned, but at this point, one is necessary. A small tax increase, either a sales tax or an income tax increase, would be sufficient to fund the university at its current level, which would keep it at its current average quality level in relation to other universities. Nebraska needs, at least, an average university.

It's not likely the budget will be increased by the open Legislature. However, we urge senators to think twice before voting for mediocrity. Regents and administrators will do some last minute lobbying, and we encourage students to write or call their state representatives to ask for a more realistic NU budget.



US Postage Letter

Non-athletic departments need improvements too

I thought colleges were places of higher learning. However, at UNL it's a case of look after yourself and let the other fellow sink.

First, the old Alumni Center has been torn down and replaced by a modern facade. A memorial has been built for Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne. Their wins are admirable, but the four columns make it appear they died in a plane crash.

Obviously these were not paid for by the students' ever-increasing tuition costs, but the money would be better used in more generally beneficial areas, such as academic services and equipment, faculty expansion or saving Morrill Hall.

Second, the Union Bookstore is expanded, despite the fact it can't compete with Nebraska Bookstore's inventory. As a result of this decision, students have lost one of the few entertainment and social centers they could afford and could get to without a car. Moving the video games and pinball into the television nook isn't the answer. That has moved the television into the commons area where it disturbs any student who wants to study.

If people want to show their appreciation to the university, why not donate funds to non-athletic departments that need money. Donations could be used to increase teacher salaries, allowing UNL to compete for new instructors. Because of cuts, the English department has heavy limitations on the number of copies. Think of it, a department that studies the written word can't afford to copy and distribute the words to the students. Wouldn't improved scholastic departments sending educated students out into the world be as big a boost for UNL as a football team setting a season rushing record?

Joe Holm
Lincoln

Letter Policy

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

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No room for WRC's biases

Clark Osborn and other ASUN senators should be commended for bringing to light the abuse of student fees by the Women's Resource Center. The cut in operating funds was justified as previous attempts to alter the policies of the WRC have been unproductive.



Todd Knobel

In the fall of 1983, the Union Board's Program and Activities Committee did an extensive review of the WRC. While few of the Program and Activities Committee's recommendations were passed by the Union Board, the point that there was considerable dissatisfaction with the WRC was made clear.

The same semester, representatives from Students for Life spoke to ASUN about the one-sidedness of the abortion material in the WRC. In spite of all the attempts to modify the WRC, it has continued to espouse a narrow brand of

liberalism.

The lesbian issue is a case in point. At UNL a variety of opinions exist on the subject. The WRC has made its bias clear by forming a lesbian support group and sponsoring pro-lesbian speakers. What about opposing views held by campus ministries? What about the views held by students who feel lesbian activities are immoral? Somehow the WRC has found it convenient to overlook these views when spending student fees.

The same story can be told of the abortion issue. The WRC presently displays several pro-abortion pamphlets. Yet, the WRC just can't seem to find any place to exhibit any pro-life material. Ironically, the WRC promotes the pro-abortion view even though a recent poll by the Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star revealed that a majority of the women in Nebraska in the 18-to-24 age group favored a constitutional amendment further restricting abortions.

The WRC also has promoted the nuclear freeze, the present Nicaraguan government and other non-sexist issues. The WRC has come to

look more like a branch office for the Democratic National Committee than a student organization promoting women's equality.

Because of the WRC's biased viewpoints, many women don't feel comfortable using the WRC. WRC officials claim that 500 people use the WRC each month. What they don't mention is the number of repeat users. At the rate of 500 people (presumably women) per month, about one-third of all women on campus will have used the WRC by the end of the year. That is simply is not the case.

Former Union Board member Tim O'Keefe brought up an interesting idea while he was serving on the board. O'Keefe suggested the WRC be reformed into a human resource center. A human resource center could preserve the non-political services offered by the WRC and offer new services to men as well. The political aspects of the WRC could be properly truned over to student organizations. Whatever is done, a change is needed because the present WRC lives in a world of the 1960s — a world that is no longer a reality in the 1980s.

Professor says letter fans flames of hatred

In the name of Christianity, my colleague Nels Forde has written one of the most vicious letters

I have ever seen in the Daily Nebraskan (March 22). He decries the "incessant braying from the homophile/transvestite sector." Lesbians, in his view, are not a "true minority." They have "contaminated" the Women's Resource Center.

Forde's letter, on top of the letters and events of the past weeks, supports and extends one of

the most direct and brutal attacks on members of the university community that we have seen in recent years. Moreover, he tries to put the moral authority of the Christian religion behind all this, citing his "well-known Christianity" and his connection with the Christian Studies Society. Continued on Page 5

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