

Weather
Sunny, hot and humid conditions can be expected for today through Sunday. High today 93. Low tonight 70. High on Saturday 95.
Barb Branda/Daily Nebraskan

Cockey Monroe band follows its dream
Arts and Entertainment, page 7

Huskers prepare for FSU game
Sports, page 10



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Faculty senate doubts Legislature's word in Landis' budget plan

By Todd von Kampen
Senior Reporter

UNL faculty members are skeptical about state proposals to reallocate NU spending because the Legislature has a record of taking away the funds involved, said the UNL Faculty Senate president.



Landis

If the university does not identify areas for spending cuts, it will be 'doomed in the budget wars.'

— State Sen. Dave Landis

Desmond M. Wheeler, senate president and chemistry professor, and other members of the senate's executive committee met with Lincoln Sen. Dave Landis Thursday to discuss his NU budget reorganization plan.

The plan asks the NU Board of Regents to reallocate \$10 million in spending during five years if the Legislature promises to keep the money for strengthening remaining programs.

Wheeler said faculty members agreed with Landis that NU and state government must work together and plan ahead for future budgets. But, he said, faculty members are leery about identifying areas for cuts because "there's no assurance the Legislature will deliver" and use the money for other NU programs.

The regents decided in April 1981 to cut about \$300,000 from the budget and use the money for other NU programs, Wheeler said. The next week, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee voted to trim \$300,000 from proposed state funding for NU, he said.

Landis said NU officials may be justified in worrying whether the Legislature will keep reallocated funds. But he said they shouldn't expect to convince the Legislature that NU's scope should not be reduced. If the university does not identify areas for spending cuts, he said, it will be "doomed in the budget wars."

NU can keep its academic programs and narrow its scope at the same time, Landis said. He said spending for extension services and research could be cut without violating NU's mandate to provide the services as a land-grant university.

Gerard Keating, ASUN president, proposed cutting research and extension spending to save money for academic programs.

But research and extension cuts actually could injure academic programs and deprive NU of valuable income, said George Tuck, Faculty Senate secretary. Research grants help pay for equipment and hiring graduate assistants to teach and research, he said.

"You can cut out major academic units just by doing that," said Tuck, a news-editorial professor in the College of Journalism.

The provision of allowing NU to reallocate money gradually over five years could test the Legislature's intentions, Tuck said. However, NU does not have as much "fat" to cut from its budget as some members of state government may think, he said.

"We're actually running an extremely lean operation here," Tuck said. "There's little more we can do."

The public should enter the budget debate to try to preserve programs they think are important, Wheeler said. But such input probably won't prevent "a long, hard fight" over NU's future, he said.

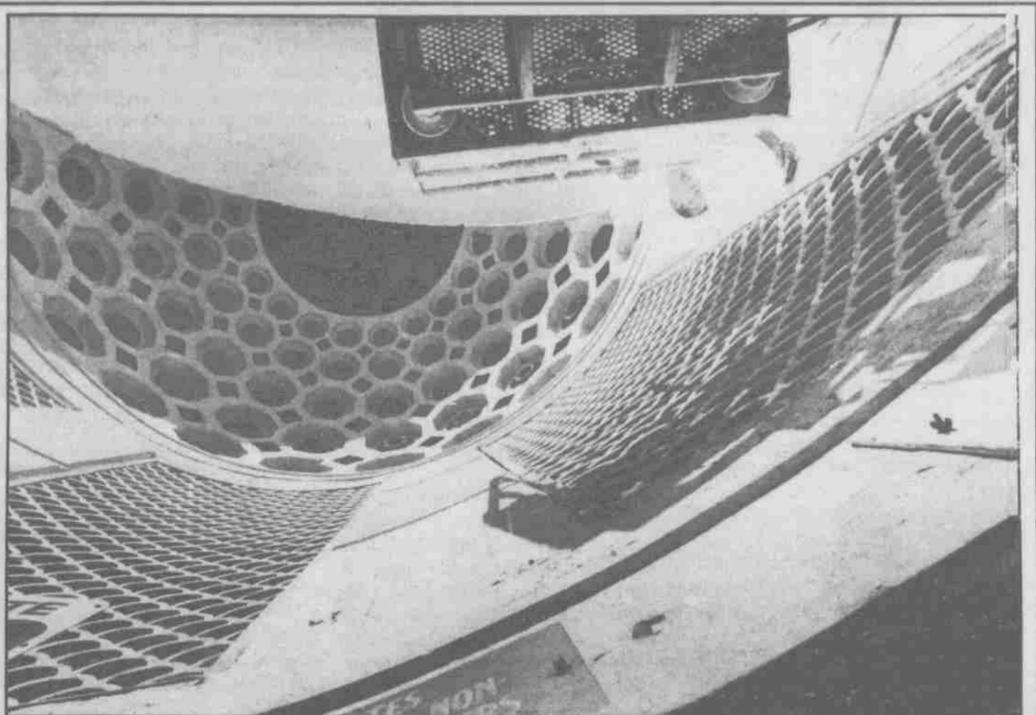


Tuck

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— George Tuck
UNL Faculty Senate

"The trouble is there's a lot of people that say the university should spend less," he said. "But when you try to cut their programs, they get rather cross about it."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Bottom's up

Jim Kelso, employee of A. A. Leupold Painting Contractors, scrubs old paint from the entrance of gate 20 on the east side of Memorial Stadium. The building is being prepared for Saturday's game against Florida State University. Story on page 10.

45,000 sign seat-belt petition

Opponents of Nebraska's seat-belt law, which takes effect today, collected about 45,000 signatures — more than enough to place the controversial bill on the 1986 general election ballot, said the petition coordinator.

The group need 27,395 verified signatures to place the issue on the ballot said coordinator, Don Jensen.

Petition signatures will be categorized by county and then verified by that county's election commissioner or county clerk, said Secretary of State Allen Beermann.

Jensen, who is also the group's treasurer, attributed the large petition response to Nebraskan's independent way of thinking.

The group spent two months getting signatures from 92 of 93 counties.

Bob Cashoili, the group's legal counsel, said he expects 10 to 15 percent of the signatures to be invalid. Cashoili said most of those signatures are invalid because no address was given.

Petitions are required to have the date of signing, signature, address and printed name under which the voter is registered.

The seat-belt law is the start of a trend intended to protect people from themselves, said petition Chairman Clarence Olberding of Lincoln. The group advertised for volunteers to take petitions door to door and to set up booths at county fairs and the State Fair, Olberding said. About 6,000 sig-

natures were collected at the State Fair, he said.

"I don't buy the theory that seat belts save lives; people save lives," he said.

Jensen said he didn't think the group "had a chance" of getting the issue on the ballot before the petition campaign began.

"The response was overwhelming," he said.

Petitioners probably could have collected enough signatures to suspend the law if they had another week, he said.

Jensen said he thinks the seat-belt law will be a major issue in upcoming gubernatorial and legislative elections.

Nebraskans must buckle up today

Nebraska's mandatory seat-belt law takes effect today, which means that all front-seat occupants of automobiles must wear seat belts.

However, there are exceptions: Passengers in busses and automobiles made before 1973 and motorcycle and moped riders are not affected by the law. Also, people who can't wear seat belts for medical reasons are exempt if they are carrying a written note from

their doctor that says they should not wear them.

Drivers will be fined \$25 for each violation if they and any frontseat passengers ages four to 15 are not wearing seat belts. Children ages 1 to 3 must wear a seat belt no matter where they sit, and children under 1 year must sit in a child-restraint seat secured with a seat belt.

Frontseat passengers 16 and older

can be penalized if they are not wearing seat belts.

No court costs will be assessed or driver's license points taken away from the driver.

Drivers and frontseat passengers can be penalized only if police stop them for violating another law and the officer discovers the seat-belt violation.

Nebraska is the sixth state to enact a mandatory seatbelt law.

More money sought for Lied Center

From staff and wire reports

The NU Foundation has begun a money-raising campaign for the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, organizers announced Thursday.

The new money-raising effort "is just another campaign woven into our ongoing efforts," said Edward J.

Hirsch, executive vice president and corporate secretary of the foundation.

The foundation hopes to raise \$10 million from both the national and local efforts, he said.

Only \$5 million more is needed to fund the \$25 million project, Hirsch

said, and money donated after the goal is reached will be placed into an endowment fund to pay for operating the 3,400-seat performing arts center.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 1986.