

Weather:

Continued cloudy and cool today with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. High of 69. Cloudy tonight with a low of 55. Weekend outlook calls for partly cloudy skies with highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s.
Barb Branda/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska cross country teams host of rare home meet

Sports, page 9

'A Sunday in The Country' showing now at Sheldon

Arts and Entertainment, Page 7

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Cuts hurt faculty retention rate, officials say

By Todd von Kampen
Senior Reporter

Mid-year budget cuts and allocations have forced UNL to eliminate 41 faculty positions since 1981, said John Yost, associate to UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale.

In addition, four UNL department chairmen said faculty members in programs such as chemistry, history, computer science and business administration have resigned to take better-paying jobs at other universities or in the private sector.

Yost said faculty members seldom leave merely because NU budgets are cut. However, tight budgets keep the university from providing salary levels and teaching and research support needed to retain them, he said.

"We do the best we can to retain our faculty members," Yost said. "But there have always been faculty members who receive offers from other institutions who can afford them better professional opportunities than they receive here."

"Some of them leave reluctantly," he

added.

NU salaries average 12 percent less than salaries at its "peer" institutions, said Robert Furgason, UNL vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. He said schools in the peer group, including Iowa State University, the University of Missouri and non-Big Eight schools such as Penn State University and the University of Illinois, are land-grant schools with a scope similar to NU.

Benjamin Rader, chairman of the UNL history department, said some of his colleagues believe their careers at UNL are becoming "more of a dead end." He said the department has not had a budget increase in five years, and now has the lowest operating budget in proportion to staff in the Big Eight.

"There's more concern now than during my experience at the university about the future of NU," Rader said, who came to UNL 18 years ago.

Rader said his department lost its urban history instructor because of budget cuts. In the last five years, he said, four of the department's full and associate professors resigned to take higher-paying jobs, and less experienced

assistant professors now fill those posts.

Although the chemistry department lost only one faculty member during the summer, it has been short of professors for some time, said George Sturgeon, the department's vice chairman. Some longtime professors have retired or moved to other jobs within the NU system, he said.

"There's just that many fewer people to take care of the students," he said.

Sturgeon said the department can attract entry-level faculty because it offers competitive starting salaries and start-up money for research. But faculty members often think twice about staying, he said, because department salaries improve little compared to those at other schools.

The computer science department has filled its vacancies during the last four years, said Roy Keller, department chairman. The department would like to double its staff from its present 15, he said, but the nationwide demand for computer science faculty far exceeds the supply. Private firms compete fiercely for computer experts, he said.

The College of Business Administration faces a continual problem of staying competitive in the faculty job market, said Dean Gary Schwendiman. Some of the college's professors left because they were earning more money as private consultants than as professors, he said. If the trend continues, he said, "we could have more people leave."

Schwendiman said the price for good business professors rises faster than the university can raise salaries. New professors with doctorates cost about \$41,000 a year, but UNL can offer them only \$36,000, he said.

"The question is, 'will the university and the Legislature do what it must to meet market demands?'" he asked.

Furgason said that statements by Gov. Bob Kerrey and others that the university must narrow its scope by cutting programs or colleges make it harder to retain faculty members. When a program is threatened with elimination, he said, "good people feel threatened" and consider leaving even if the program survives.

"The minute you put out a list of that nature, it's almost *fait accompli*," he said.

Sturgeon said proposals to cut state funding for research would be "disastrous" for many departments. Trimming research would cost NU millions of dollars in private grants and would cause many chemistry professors to look for other jobs, he said.

Rader said research cuts would damage NU's reputation as well.

"The reputation of the university depends much more on research than on the teaching product we have," Rader said.

If the university continues to lose faculty, its status as a comprehensive university will suffer, said George Tuck, UNL Faculty Senate secretary. Those who say the budget must be cut should trim everything not necessary for educating students before they propose more faculty cuts, he said.

"You can have a university without a lot of different things," Tuck said. "But you cannot have a university without a faculty."

Job, not politics, new chief to state party

By Ann Harrell
Senior Reporter

In 1982, Lincoln native Brian Coyne graduated with honors from Cornell University with a degree in government. On Sept. 1, at age 26, he became executive director of the Nebraska Democratic Party.

But despite an occasional raised eyebrow, Coyne says he doesn't think his youth will affect his ability to do the job.

"I suppose I am a bit young," he said. "But I feel it's a challenging job that I'm capable of."

Coyne comes to his new job with experience in political organizations.

In college, he worked as a political volunteer and was active in issue-oriented politics. After graduation, he became the state coordinator for the Nebraska nuclear freeze campaign. As the group's first paid staff member, he organized a statewide program regarding arms control issues. He left the freeze campaign in May.

Coyne also attended the Democratic presidential convention in 1984 as an alternate delegate. He was committed to candidate Gary Hart.

Coyne said his interest in politics began as a child. He said he remembers his parents, also traditional Democrats, taking him to see Bobby Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy speak. He has followed political campaigns ever since.

Coyne said he looks forward to his new duties because he enjoys electoral politics, campaigning and traveling to meet diverse groups with common ideas on how to meet goals. He chose the Democrats, he said, because their political philosophy most closely matches the principles and ideas in which he believes.

"It's the common citizens party, the party that (takes into account) the



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Coyne

people," he said. "It clearly best represents my hopes for national and Nebraska society."

His hopes include a society that is fiscally responsible, yet compassionate and just, he said. Coyne said he would like to see a U.S. society that helps create a more peaceful world and opens more economic and societal opportunities for all people.

"I'm by nature a very political person," he said. "This job provides me an opportunity to use my skills to achieve some of (my) personal dreams of society."

As executive director, Coyne oversees the day-to-day operations of the party. He also will work with candidates to organize campaigns, provide services for candidates, participate in fund-raising and organize the party's bi-annual state convention.

Coyne also has several personal goals.

Last summer, he applied at UNL,

where both his parents are professors, to pursue a master's degree in political science. Coyne said he had intended to write a biography of former Democratic Nebraska governor Frank Morrison. Instead, he chose to work for the party.

"Had this job not been there, I would have been a graduate student," he said.

Coyne said he still wants to write the biography and still may work toward a master's degree.

But right now, that's on the back burner.

"It's hard to set your agenda," he said. "I'm just getting situated, learning the new responsibilities. At this point I'm focusing on being the 26-year-old director of the Nebraska Democratic Party."

Coyne said he doesn't know how long he will work for the party, nor whether he ever would consider running for political office.

"You never know," he said.

Kerrey repeats stand: 'reduce NU scope'

By Todd von Kampen
Senior Reporter

The experiences of other universities facing budget cuts shows NU will become stronger by narrowing its scope, Gov. Bob Kerrey told UNL's Young Democrats Thursday.

Speaking before a crowd of about 100 in the Nebraska Union, Kerrey said Nebraska simply does not have the demographics to support NU at its present size. If NU narrows its scope, he said, the state can afford to raise salaries in the remaining programs and keep them competitive with other institutions.

Kerrey cited a recent story in the New York Times that told how the State University of New York handled its budget problems. State University, he said, chose to narrow its program offerings so it could give its remaining faculty members the best possible salaries.

Nebraskans would be able to support NU's present offerings if the state's population and NU enrollment were rising, Kerrey said. With declines in population, enrollment and disposable

income, he said, the "phenomenal growth" of the first part of the 20th century has passed.

The fate of Nebraska's so-called advocacy commissions, Kerrey said, taught him good work can be done without high budgets. Although he "first thought it was horrible" that the Legislature took all budget money from the Mexican-American Commission, the Indian Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women, he said, he now believes the state can serve the causes of the affected groups through all state programs.

Which programs should be cut will be decided by the NU Board of Regents, Kerrey said. But he said the regents should take the initiative to raise faculty salaries through budget cuts. The regents' 1986-87 proposed budget, which calls for a 2 percent increase before salary changes, does not do that, he said.

"Even if they were to get their current budget request," he said, "... it angers me to have them say they want to raise salaries and wait for me to tell them what I want."



Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

Kerrey signs the roster at the Young Democrats meeting Thursday.