

Similar NU, IU budget cuts make faculties 'ripe for raids'

By Kent Endacott
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska and the University of Iowa, both afflicted by the sagging agricultural economy, have been forced to "pare down in order to survive," officials from both schools say.

"The situation does not look good," says Ken Mall, IU vice president of academic affairs.

Both schools have had mid-year budget reductions. In October, the Iowa Legislature approved reductions of 3.8 percent or about \$6 million, in IU's 1985-86 budget. In November, the Nebraska Legislature reduced the 1985-86 NU budget by 2 percent or \$3.4 million.

NU President Ronald Roskens said the budget crunch is forcing short-term and long-term changes in NU's operation.

"Once it was established that we would be required to reduce the budget by 2 percent, we took the position that we must maintain the institution as best we could," he said. First, we have to consider temporary reductions to get us through the current fiscal year.

"We will be curbing expenditures on such items as unfilled teaching positions, travel and maintenance."

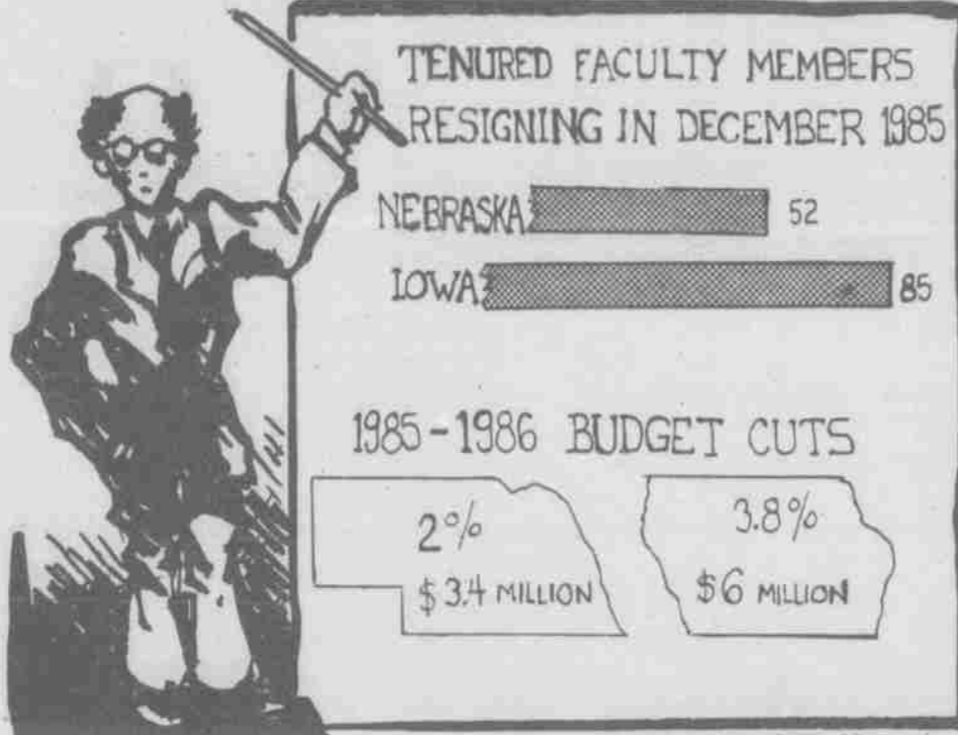
More importantly, Roskens said, NU officials must remove \$3.4 million permanently from the university budget by July.

Dorsey Ellis, IU vice president of finance, said IU is coping with its budget reductions by leaving unfilled faculty positions vacant and by cutting maintenance costs.

"We have frozen appointed positions for the year," he said. "If somebody quits, then that position goes unfilled."

Ellis said IU also reduced expenditures for repairs and research and adopted energy conservation programs.

Moreover, the leaner budgets at both schools have prompted top faculty members to leave for higher-paying jobs at rival schools. Eighty-five full-time tenured faculty members at IU have indicated they will not return after this semester. In 1984, 68 faculty



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

members left IU.

"We have few things to look forward to," said Richard Sjolund, president of IU's faculty senate. "The main problem is that the people most likely to leave are the best people."

"And when they leave, they take their grants with them," he said. "When the university can no longer count on the grants, then it must rely on the state."

Sjolund said IU, which ranks near the bottom of the Big 10 in faculty salaries, hasn't had a faculty pay raise in four years.

However, he said, the IU Board of Regents and faculty senate plan to introduce a resolution to the Iowa Legislature in January, calling for a 5 percent across-the-board increase in faculty salaries.

At UNL, 52 tenured faculty members have resigned effective Dec. 31, according to a university report.

"We're ripe for raiding," Roskens said. "Right now it's clearly known that the University of Nebraska and the University of Iowa are ripe for raiding because of all the publicity the agricultural economy has received."

Typical of the distinguished faculty

leaving NU for higher paying jobs at other schools is Lowell Saterlee, director of the food processing center. Saterlee announced Dec. 3 he will leave UNL for a higher-paying job, directing a similar program at Pennsylvania State University.

"I've been given a very good opportunity at Penn State... They're pumping a lot of money into the biotechnology program to get it to No. 1," he said.

Desmond Wheeler, president of the UNL Faculty Senate, said the "state's lack of commitment to higher education" has hurt faculty morale at UNL.

"Many states are going through tough economic times," he said. "But those states also are improving their universities at the same time. Here in Nebraska, all we are talking about is cutting."

Pejorative predictions about the future of agriculture have hurt faculty morale at IU, Sjolund said.

"A lot of the faculty has not had a raise in four years," he said. "And there's not a lot to look forward to in the next four or five years."

"And when they get recruited by another place, they have no reason to stay."

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