
raiding faculty for excellence

ment chairman positions, she said.

Most of the open positions are in the Arts and Science department, because it is the largest, England said, and although the total number is a little higher than normal, she said it is nothing unusual.

Wheeler said that because the problems retaining faculty at UNL, competition by those institutions better funded by their state governments is making it difficult to refill the positions left open by existing professors.

For example, the organic chemistry department has one opening it has been trying to fill since last year. Wheeler said offers were made to the two top candidates, but both turned down the jobs. A position was offered to a third candidate, who by that time, had already accepted a job at another school, Wheeler said.

In all three cases, Wheeler said, the money offered to start the faculty member's research or "set up" funds was not attractive enough to bring to Nebraska. He said UNL usually offers a little more than \$100,000 to set up research while other universi-

ties in Florida and Arkansas offer anywhere from \$175,000 to \$225,000.

Other schools can offer so much "simply because other states make a bigger effort to put money into their universities," Wheeler said. That commitment by the state to higher education is something potential faculty base their decisions on when considering job offers, Tuck said. And when they see low salaries, he added, it paints a bleak picture of how the state plans to treat higher education.

If recent budget cuts and battles with the Legislature to restore money for the university are any indication, Wheeler said, the brain drain is likely to continue and further effect the quality of the university.

"This is going to get worse until the state starts funding us properly," he said.

But several of the front-running gubernatorial candidates agreed it will take much work and time before the state can adequately fund the university.

All four of the candidates reached said that although higher education is one of their primary priorities, they would not attempt to fund the university through a tax increase.

"The people (of Nebraska) will not be supportive of higher education as much as they would like to be until we broaden the economic base and they can be supportive without being personally financially penalized," said Republican candidate for governor Kermit Brashear.

Saying "there are no quick fixes," Brashear maintained that to ade-

quately fund the university, the state needs more people paying sales, income and property taxes. Higher taxes only force people and businesses out of Nebraska which impedes its economic growth.

Democratic candidate Chris Beutler said that until the economic base of the state grows to where more revenue can be collected for the university, it is the NU Board of Regent's responsibility to reallocate money to give faculty raises and keep them in Nebraska.

"It is the job of the governor and the Legislature to provide as much money as it can to the university and to prioritize education," Beutler said. "But once the money is allocated to the university, it is up to the Board of Regents to decide how to spend it."

Democratic candidate Helen Bosalis said the university cannot rely on tax increases and should increase its efforts to attract corporate endowments, foundation money and federal aid if it is to retain its faculty and quality.

"... A tax increase is unrealistic, she said. We need to look at all other avenues first."

"This is going to get worse until the state starts funding us properly."

—Wheeler
