

Regents approve budget, raise tuition, purchase Husker Hall

By Colleen Kenney
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents met at both ends of the state this summer, approving the university budget and a tuition increase, a bond issue for Morrill Hall and the purchase of Husker Hall and land to be used in a swap for a National Guard Armory.

The June 19 meeting was held in the usual place, Varner Hall in Lincoln. But for the July 25 meeting the regents traveled by plane and car to Scottsbluff.

"The board felt that since we are regents for the whole state, it's important to have a meeting in the western part of the state," said Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City.

The Scottsbluff meeting was "pretty cut and dry," said Andy Pollock, UNL student regent and ASUN president.

The regents, chancellors and their assistants toured the Panhandle Research Station, a part of the university, and saw a demonstration on the center's crop transplant operation.

The center's transplant program has shown improvement in crop yields, especially of sugar beets. The center tries to find alternative crops for Nebraska.

The regents also toured the West Nebraska General Hospital, where the NU Medical Center has a nursing program, now in its second year.

The regents approved a \$4,027,300 bond issue for the renovation of Morrill Hall to be paid off at a rate of \$695,000 a year by cigarette tax revenues.

"The bond issue means we've finalized the gymnastics to get the renovation started," said Regent Don Blank of McCook. "They wanted to get work started on it."

At the June meeting, the regents approved the 1987-88 general operating budget, which included a 2 percent tuition increase and \$880,000 for faculty salary increases.

The \$176.2 million budget is \$11.6 million more than the 1986-87 budget for the university.

Tuition for undergraduate residents a credit hour now is \$44.75, a \$1 increase from last year.

"I always hate to see us raise tuition because that doesn't mean the state is doing its fair share," Hoch said. "But when you've had five midyear cuts in the last seven years, that requires additional funds; the university's increase in tuition is part of that."

The faculty salary increases are NU's part of a \$1 million state allocation. The rest of the money will go for faculty salary increases for the state colleges.

The regents approved a 10-year contract with Electronic Media One Inc., of Omaha for the addition of two new scoreboards for Memorial Stadium.

The scoreboards will be placed on

each side of the south end zone, above the bleachers and below the stadium seats, said Kim Phelps, assistant to the vice chancellor of business and finance.

UNL previously received \$8,000 a year in royalties for advertisements used on the scoreboards, he said, but with the new contract UNL will get "substantially more" — about \$240,000 over 10 years.

The regents approved buying 8.4 acres of land in Lincoln northeast of 33rd and Leighton streets for about \$102,000. That land will be part of a swap with the Department of the Army in exchange for the John J. Pershing Armory building to the south.

The use for the land has not been decided yet, said Joe Rowson, NU director of public affairs.

"We have a whole list of options," he said.

A university report said the building may be used by the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, which is near the armory on East Campus.

The regents approved acquiring Husker Hall from Cornhusker Co-op, Inc., for \$240,000 — the amount the cooperative student housing hall is in debt.

Husker Hall had incurred two "rather large debts," Phelps said: paying off the bond for the building and payment of back property taxes to the City of Lincoln.

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