

ASUN spans the state

By Lee Rood
Staff Reporter

While some university students spent their summer catching rays or trying to make a buck, two ASUN executives spent their summer on the road, updating Nebraskans on the problems facing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

President Andy Pollock and first vice president Shawn Boldt, traveled to five Nebraska towns to talk to local Rotary, Optimist and Lions clubs about problems and changes in the state's higher education system.

Pollock said the visits to Wayne, O'Neill, Ogallala, Alliance and Cozad were good opportunities to field questions and hear what others are thinking.

Pollock said he discussed positive changes at the university, like faculty pay increases and Morrill Hall renovations. Boldt said he tried to relay that the university is still "in serious trouble."

"People really didn't realize it was that bad," Boldt said, referring to last year's \$510,000 cuts to the university's budget and UNL's problem with faculty turnover.

Both Pollock and Boldt said they encouraged their listeners to become

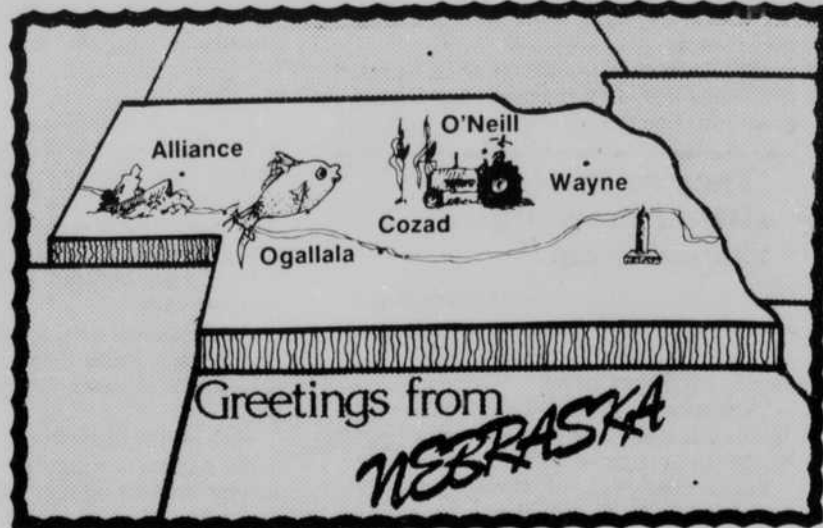
more involved by talking to lawmakers and taking part in university support programs such as ASUN's Parents Association.

Boldt said the people he talked to seemed uninterested at first, but the discussions raised some concerns.

Pollock said other ASUN members have visited towns in the past. Because

of success with the visits, he said they plan to go to other Nebraska towns over Christmas break during the year.

Pollock said he was pleased with his visits. He said he had a chance to show Nebraskans that UNL students care about what is happening at the university and hear what's said about the university.



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UNL to receive \$590,000 for faculty salary increase

By Joeth Zucco
Staff Reporter

Many University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members will get a bigger paycheck starting Sept. 1 from money appropriated by the Legislature.

UNL faculty members will receive \$590,000 of the \$880,000 in supplementary funds allocated to the University of Nebraska's three campuses — UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the NU Medical Center.

The NU Board of Regents approved the faculty salary increase in July.

Kim Phelps, assistant to the vice chancellor of business and finance, said the salary increase will be confined to full-time faculty members not holding administrative positions whose performance ranks in the upper half of their college.

"It's an encouraging sign and a step in the right direction," said Gerry Meisels, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "However, it's not enough to make a major difference, but psychologically it's good."

Randy Haack, assistant vice president and director of budget and analysis, said UNL faculty members are paid 19 percent less than faculty at comparable universities. He said UNL probably will continue to lose ground and fall another 19 percent in the upcoming year.

Haack said distribution of the money will be based on performance in the past year and student evaluations. He said the wages will increase 4 percent over last year's.

The pay increases will not be across the board. The amount each faculty member receives will be by the dean's discretion, Haack said.

'It's an encouraging sign and a step in the right direction. However, it's not enough to make a major difference, but psychologically it's good.'

—Meisels

"With that amount of money and that amount of people we have to focus on people whose salary was so low, for fear of them leaving," he said.

Stan Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said the university is "loaded with people who are very good, but not as visible."

"There isn't enough money to reward them meritoriously," Liberty said. "We're

driven to hold onto the 'superstars'."

R. Neale Copple, journalism dean, said, "There are a lot of things that have to do with keeping faculty here, and the pay increase was one of them."

Copple said that because of the increase in money he was able to do many things this year. Because of the inequity of pay in the college, the supplementary funds helped some of the faculty "catch up," he said.

"Everyone got a pay increase, some more than others," Copple said.

T. E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture, said about 15 percent of the faculty in the Agriculture College received increases with the supplementary funds.

Liberty said 38 of the 117 faculty members in the Engineering College received a salary increase.

"We tried to make some corrections in the salaries," Liberty said.

However, he said, there was "disgruntlement" among the department chairs.

"I think it was an unfortunate thing that the administrative people — the department chairs — weren't included," he said.

Meisels said about 200 faculty members received an increase in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Haack said it was difficult to get legislative approval for the pay increase.

"We're one of the many in terms of competition for limited state resources," Haack said. "There was very real recognition from the Legislature this time that faculty salaries had to be improved. Faculty salaries have been the highest budget priority."

UNO and the NU Medical Center also received some of the supplementary funds. The medical center received \$165,000 and UNO received \$125,000.

In addition to the supplementary funds, the Legislature also appropriated a 3-percent increase based on performance.

Tom Becker, budget manager of the UNL Budget Office, said the salary increase ranged from 1 to 6 percent.

"Everyone got some," Becker said.

Worker falls at Lied Center

A construction worker fell 18 feet at the Lied Center shortly after 2 p.m. Monday.

UNL Police reported that Jerry Sherwood had unhooked his safety belt to move to a different location and lost his balance.

Sherwood was taken to Lincoln General Hospital with injuries to his back, head and finger, according to a UNL Police report.

Information on Sherwood's condition will be released today.

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