

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

WEATHER:

Wednesday, mostly sunny with highs in upper 40s and low 50s with NW winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday night, mild conditions with high in upper teens-20s. Thursday, mostly sunny with high in 50s. Continued mild and dry conditions expected throughout weekend.

INDEX

News Digest 2
 Editorial 4
 Arts & Entertainment 6
 Sports 9
 Classifieds 11

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Committee approves free classes for 'oldsters'

By Jana Pedersen
 Staff Reporter

The Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature unanimously passed a bill allowing Nebraska residents who are 60 years old or older to attend classes tuition-free at any state college or university.

Five of the committee members voted to pass LB180 onto the main legislative agenda. Three committee members were absent for the vote.

Legislature

During the subcommittee hearing, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jim McFarland of Lincoln, said the bill would not only benefit senior citizens but also traditional college students.

"Because of their experience, because of their knowledge, (older students) have ideas and could bring their skills and their knowledge to the classroom and benefit all of the students including the undergraduate students," he said.

As part of the bill, which is based on similar

legislation passed in Ohio, tuition-free service would be provided only with instructor's permission and in classes where space is available, McFarland said.

Funding would not be a problem, he said, because any fees other than tuition would be paid by the student.

These students would participate in all activities in the class but would not receive college credit, he said.

Most older students do not want to take classes for credit, McFarland said, and those who want credit would have to pay regular tuition.

However, classes taken on a non-credit basis will still have benefits for older students, he said.

"... (the classes) could still provide a stimulating academic experience for those who always wanted, but perhaps could not afford, to attend college," he said.

A 1985 survey by the American Association of Retired Persons found that 25 states have passed legislation similar to Nebraska's bill, McFarland said.

See TUITION on 3



State Sen. Jim McFarland of Lincoln speaks before the Education Committee on Tuesday. Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Lytle expects same level of student fees

By Jeff Beals and David G. Young
 Staff Reporters

Although the Committee for Fees Allocation has asked university organizations to cut their budgets for next year, the group's chairman, Kevin Lytle, said it is unlikely student fees will be reduced in the fall.



"If (student) fees are raised, student reaction would be much the same as it has been. Fewer and fewer people can afford it," Lytle said.

If student fees do not go up students should be "more than happy," he said.

Lytle said CFA's goal this year is to prevent an increase in student fees.

"In order to maintain the same quality of services, we can't decrease budgets. Budgets must rise to cover inflation.

"Right now people are getting more than their money's worth. People lose out with decreases."

Student fees are divided into two groups: Fund A and Fund B.

Lytle said that CFA makes recommendations for all Fund A organizations, which include the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, the Daily Nebraskan and University Program and Facilities Fees.

CFA makes recommendations for

all Fund B organizations except Debt Service, which is controlled by a university bond agreement, Lytle said. Other Fund B fees go to the University Health Center, Nebraska Unions and Office of Campus Recreation programs and facilities.

Organizations that use Fund A student fees submitted their budgets to CFA Tuesday. Fund B budgets are due Jan. 26.

In their UPFF budget requests, UPFF requested a \$183,238 yearly projected budget, or \$4.40 per student per semester, which is an increase of 18.3 percent. ASUN requested \$121,102, or \$5.82 per student, a decrease of 7.7 percent. The Daily Nebraskan requested \$39,193, or 94 cents per student, which is the same as this year's allocation.

Part of the proposed budget increase for UPFF is a \$1,691 allocation for the Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee.

Additional increases came due to a 4.5 percent projected inflationary rate for early 1989, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Now that CFA has the organizations' budgets, Lytle said it will conduct meetings every Tuesday and Thursday, when each individual organization will make a presentation. "During the presentations we'll look at all the fees used by user organizations," Lytle said. "We look at what they do and how they used fees in the past."

"We'll ask if they possibly can take any reductions before we make our recommendations."

After CFA makes its recommen-

dations, any organization can appeal the recommendation if it received less than it requested.

According to Marlene Beyke, director of development for ASUN, the total fee per student per semester in the 1988-89 school year for support of Fund A organizations was \$7.81, a total of \$325,225 a year. ASUN received \$3.15 per student, a total of \$131,159; the DN received 94 cents per student for a total of \$39,193; and UPFF received \$3.72 for a total of \$154,903. Fund A fees are refundable.

"I think we made some progress last year with Fund A. We put a lot of emphasis on getting some clearly reliable figures on attendance at certain events," Griesen said.

See CFA on 5

Psychology students concerned

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
 Staff Reporter

Four University of Nebraska-Lincoln psychology students are starting an information campaign to increase awareness among psychology students about a faculty shortage problem in the department.

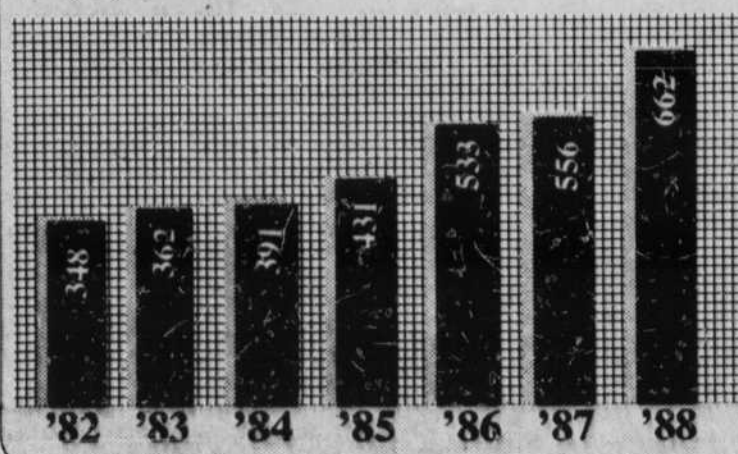
Inta Didrichsons, Bradley Montgomery and Kathy Steinmiller, all seniors, and David Isaacson, a December graduate in psychology, have put together an information sheet titled "What You Should Know as a Psychology Major."

The sheet cites statistics on the ratio of psychology students to faculty, the number of students turned away from psychology classes and the resulting problems.

Didrichsons said she and the other students plan to distribute the sheet to students in psychology classes this semester before and after class. They also have posted the sheet on bulletin boards and doors in Burnett Hall, where the psychology department is located.

The sheet states that there are 664 psychology majors this semester, up from 562 last year and 350 in 1983. While this number has nearly doubled in the last five years, the sheet states, the number of faculty has increased by only 5

Increase of Psychology Majors at UNL



Source: Psychology Department
 John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

percent in this same time period, up from 20 in 1983 to 21 now.

The sheet also gives registration statistics for the current semester. Three hundred thirty-five students were turned away from Psychology 181, which has a 234 student limit. At the 200 level, 119 students were not admitted to classes.

The sheet urges students to write to Vice Chancellor for Aca-

demie Affairs Robert Furgason, Chancellor Martin Massengale, John Peters, dean of the college of Arts and Sciences and the NU Board of Regents to make known their concerns about insufficient funding and staffing.

Didrichsons said the group decided before Christmas break that someone needed to "take action

See PSYCH on 3

Interim director Beacon gives financial aid progress report

By Jerry Guenther
 Staff Reporter

Positive changes are taking place in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, according to John Beacon, interim director of the office.

Beacon told the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate members during Tuesday's meeting that most people "didn't realize how bad" the situation was in the office.

"As I took office the first of July, I soon discovered that there was no way we were going to process all those financial aid applications before classes began," Beacon said.

Some of the ways the financial aid office alleviated this problem were to make more short-term loans available to more students and defer tuition payments for students who did not receive their award notification, Beacon said.

Students living in university residence halls were allowed to defer housing payments if they applied for aid by Aug. 1, and students with University Bookstore charge accounts were given additional time to pay their bills.

Beacon said many problems occurred because the financial aid office's small staff was handling such a large workload.

"The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (in 1987) handled more

money per employee than any other Big Eight institution at a ratio of one (employee) to almost \$1.5 million (in aid)," Beacon said.

Other factors causing delays in processing financial aid requests were problems with the new computer software in the office and increased federal aid regulations instituted by Congress.

Beacon also announced that Gov. Kay Orr recently recommended \$166,500 in increased funding for the office in the next two years. The Nebraska Legislature has yet to approve Orr's budget.

"Unfortunately it's (the increase) in the second year," Beacon said, "so we're going to have to get through yet another year... hopefully that money is going to be out there for us in two years."

In other business, Robert Furgason, chairman of the Central Planning Committee and vice chancellor for academic affairs, identified some UNL projects that were ranked according to campus-wide goals and objectives by a joint meeting of the academic and central planning committees.

Furgason said the committee members recommended 18 projects for the 1989-91 Capital Budget Request after discussing them within the context of campus-wide goals and

See SENATE on 5