Legislature adds financing for tuition assistance to bill

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature voted Tuesday afternoon to add $250,000 to the deficit appropriations bill for additional financing of the tuition assistance program for low-income students.

Sen. Frank Korshoj of Herman said he introduced the amendment to provide the additional money because of cuts in federal financial aid and his concern about the availability of higher education to low-income students.

"It's not very much money, and its very, very important to those who need it," Korshoj said.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward reminded senators that "Nebraska ranks very low in providing tuition assistance.

"This is giving money to students who truly need tuition assistance."

Sen. Jacklyn Smith of Hastings said that without the additional money, the program would have to reduce the number of awards to low-income students.

Smith said the shift in federal tuition assistance from grants to loans has hurt poor students because large debts from student loans are intimidating to low-income families.

Tuition grants help low-income students attend four-year colleges and universities instead of opting for cheaper two-year programs, she said.

Sen. Bernice Labedz of Omaha said tuition assistance also benefits the entire state because it raises the earning potential of the entire population.

"The state is a winner whenever Nebraskans choose to attend Nebraska schools," Labedz said.

The deficit appropriations bill makes up for shortfalls in the Legislature's two-year budget.

Co-author says faculty vitality important to quality of education

By Thomas Clouse
Staff Reporter

Career consulting for professors is a recent development that is important in integrating professors into university systems, said a UNL professor who co-authored a book on the subject.

Daniel Wheeler, associate professor in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resource's Cooperative Extension Service, is co-author of the book, "Enhancing Faculty Careers: Strategies for Development and Renewal," published last February.

Wheeler, coordinator of the Institute's Office of Professional and Organizational Development, said faculty vitality is important to the quality of education.

"More options for professors translate into their performance and their attitudes," Wheeler said.

He said programs for new professors are essential for development and establishing tenure.

"We need to provide the support that new faculty need to get established in the institution," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said the split in the age structure of professors -- many reaching retirement age as many others are entering the system -- creates a need for development and support programs.

Robert Furgason, vice chancellor for academic affairs, said many University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members are getting close to retirement.

Furgason said a tenure buyout program was initiated three years ago at UNL to provide incentives for tenured faculty members to retire. That program, he said, will help avoid a possible faculty shortage by giving the university an early start at recruiting new professors to fill the empty positions.

Any 62-year-old faculty member can choose the buyout program, and be paid one year's salary over three years.

And UNL officials are using salary increases to attract more quality faculty members, Furgason said.

"At UNL, as well as nationally, we are all concerned with getting good quality faculty for the 1990s," Furgason said.

Wheeler said that attracting faculty members to UNL also depends on a responsive attitude toward their needs and support programs to establish them in the system.

Wheeler said IANR has individual orientations and pretenure support groups for new faculty members.

"These programs help attract people to come and in keeping them here," Wheeler said.

Members of pretenure support groups get together to exchange information and look at tenure files, Wheeler said.

Also, a program called NUPROF was formed to give midcareer faculty members chances to look at their positions and help them change fields of study, Wheeler said.

IANR faculty are invited to apply to participate in NUPROF -- a "program for the professional renewal of faculty."

Delivee Wright, director of the Teaching and Learning Center, said her office helps professors and graduate teaching assistants reach their instructional goals.

"Our office is concerned with the quality of teaching," Wright said.

She said the center helps support faculty by offering workshops, discussion groups, study groups and individual consultations aimed at gaining knowledge in special areas.

Wright said UNL also has received a grant from the U.S. Office of Education for about $200,000 over three years to pay for improvements in post-secondary education and to develop programs that reward good teaching.

She said her office is working with different departments at UNL over the three years to help develop ways to recognize good teaching and to reward it.

Debate

Continued from Page 1

course which that could be available by next spring.

She said racism can't be eliminated, but TODAY can "take a strong positive first step" while in office.

Barb Walker, STAND first vice presidential candidate, said there must be more funding for programs that focus on gay/lesbian education.

The recent negative student reaction to funding the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events is "discriminatory," she said.

Opinions on the financing of COLAGE are based on the perception that homosexuals are "different," which isn't fair, she said.

Gosch said that although voting is paramount, voters should also consider which party would best represent them.

"VISION represents the future," Gosch said. "Our platform relies on the future, not on what ASUN is now."

police REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday, March 12.

12:31 a.m. -- Car reported egged, Area 3 parking lot, Harper Residence Hall.
1:13 a.m. -- Bomb threat called in by telephone operator, Abel Residence Hall, no bomb found.
10:25 a.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, metered lot, west of Memorial Stadium, $630.
1:27 p.m. -- Attempted theft of car accessories reported, air vent damaged, Area 1 parking lot, 17th and R streets, $20.
2:56 p.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, Area 2 parking lot, Sandoz Residence Hall, $150.
3:34 p.m. -- UNL police assisted Lincoln police on accident, Area 25 parking lot, 14th and W streets.
5:13 p.m. -- Rear window louver and headlamp covers reported stolen, Area 1 parking lot, 19th and T streets, $215 loss, $240 damage.
6:36 p.m. -- Purse reported stolen, Pound Residence Hall, $50.
7:14 p.m. -- Purse and contents recovered, less $2, Pound Residence Hall.
7:45 p.m. -- Speakers reported stolen from car, Area 1 parking lot, 18th and R streets, $225 damage to car, $160 loss.

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