

Shortage of doctoral faculty predicted

By Dionne Searcey
Staff Reporter

A wave of faculty members with doctoral degrees could retire from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, officials said, making a pipeline of students entering doctoral programs essential.

Marijane England, academic systems coordinator for the vice chancellor for academic affairs, said 45 of 1,213 tenured or tenure-track faculty members at UNL are age 65 or older.

"These people eventually will need to be replaced by a pool of new Ph.D.s," she said.

John Vaughn of the Association of American Universities in Washington said the large number of retiring doctorate professors stemmed from an increase of doctoral graduates who entered the work force 20-30 years ago.

In the '60s and '70s, the number of doctoral graduates in America increased from about 10,000 to roughly 26,000, he said.

In subsequent years, students turned away from an academic market that was filled, Vaughn said.

Now, the people who made up the surplus of doctoral degrees are retiring, he said. Replacements for those professors may not be easy to find.

Merlin Lawson, associate dean of graduate studies at UNL, said half the people with doctorates in the United States are age 45 or older. "There will be an abrupt shift in the market from oversupply to undersupply," he said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said demand for university faculty members with Ph.D.s has prompted more students to seek doctoral degrees in education.

Sixty of 208 doctorates awarded at UNL from December 1989 to August 1990 were obtained in the area of education, he said.

And, Lawson said, the overall enrollment for the doctoral program at UNL is up 9 percent, from 1,246 enrolled in the fall semester of 1989 to 1,357 students enrolled this fall.

"Students are recognizing that graduate work is important to achieve career goals," Lawson said.

Despite a growing number of students seeking doctorates in education, Griesen said, the academic world doesn't have a surplus.

"We're all competing for a fixed number of them," he said.

Vaughn said universities need to start increasing enrollment in doctoral programs so graduates with Ph.D.s will be available to the job market as faculty members begin to retire in the next five to eight years.

"If we wait until a demand appears... then we'll be a decade out of phase," he said.

A shortage of doctoral graduates is expected in all disciplines within five to 10 years, Vaughn said.

Roger Bruning, associate dean of graduate studies, said one way to increase enrollment in doctoral programs is to improve minority recruiting efforts.

The graduate student office is working with

other departments to recruit ethnic and racial minority doctoral students, he said.

"One of the goals of UNL's graduate program is to increase ethnic and racial diversity of students obtaining Ph.D.s," Bruning said.

Lawson said that of 23,172 doctoral degrees earned in America last year, only 2,124 were obtained by Asians, blacks, Hispanics and American Indians.

Another way to encourage students to seek doctorates, Vaughn said, would be to increase available financial aid.

In 1969, the federal government financed about 60,000 doctoral fellowships. This has dropped to 13,000, Vaughn said.

But, Bruning said, financial support is available to students who look hard enough for it.

Students can earn stipends from research obtained in education, he said.

"Many students don't realize the kinds of support available in getting financial help," he said.

Maintenance priorities listed

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

A recent survey conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has provided the university with a list of maintenance priorities that must be met, an official said.

Rich McDermott, UNL director of facilities management, said the survey, which was conducted over a five-month period, checked all the primary university facilities.

Now, McDermott said, urgent projects must be sorted out and listed for funding.

McDermott said renovations must be made to Burnett and Richards halls and campus buildings must be repaired to meet building codes.

Elevator repair and improvements to fire or life-safety systems are examples of priority maintenance that can't be deferred, McDermott said. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning will be on the deferred list, but "really need a lot of work," he said.

Facilities management is able to do everything that must be done, he said, "but we aren't able to get to a lot of things that ought to be done."

And, McDermott said, it's the deferred list that's causing the back-

log of needed maintenance at UNL.

"My concern," he said, "is how long can we let the building deferred maintenance backlog grow before we seriously impede program delivery?"

If maintenance keeps putting off what should be done, McDermott said, those projects eventually will become "must be done."

"It would be cost effective for the state to increase routine maintenance at UNL and avoid the higher cost of breakdown maintenance," he said.

McDermott said he is under pressure to make existing resources go further.

"Facilities management is continually striving to optimize the use of what resources we have, but to fully accomplish our role, we need help," he said.

According to the University of Nebraska capital construction request for 1991-93, UNL requires maintenance funding of about \$4.6 million.

This year, UNL facilities management received \$2 million from the state through the operating budget and \$1.7 million from the Deferred Maintenance Task Force set up under LB309.

LB309 was passed in 1978 and allocates funds for university maintenance,

said H.L. Pete Petersen, administrative consultant to the governor for deferred maintenance.

McDermott said this year's allocation was "the strongest support we've gotten from 309 in a long time."

"Right now, they (the Deferred Maintenance Task Force) represent the gap between being able to get 'must' requests done or not."

In 1989-90, UNL received \$1.409 million from the task force. That amount was up from \$685,000 in 1988-89.

Because funding from the task force changes annually, support for UNL fluctuates, he said.

"Our real hope is that 309 will expand and we'll be able to get more done at UNL," McDermott said.

He said that currently, funds from the task force are for the envelopes of buildings, like doors, windows and walls. McDermott said he would like to see an expanded scope for the task force so funds could be used for internal subsystems such as classrooms.

"They can only do that if they receive more funding support from the state of Nebraska," he said. "Whenever we get the chance to talk to people at 309, we tell them it's critical money for critical projects at UNL."

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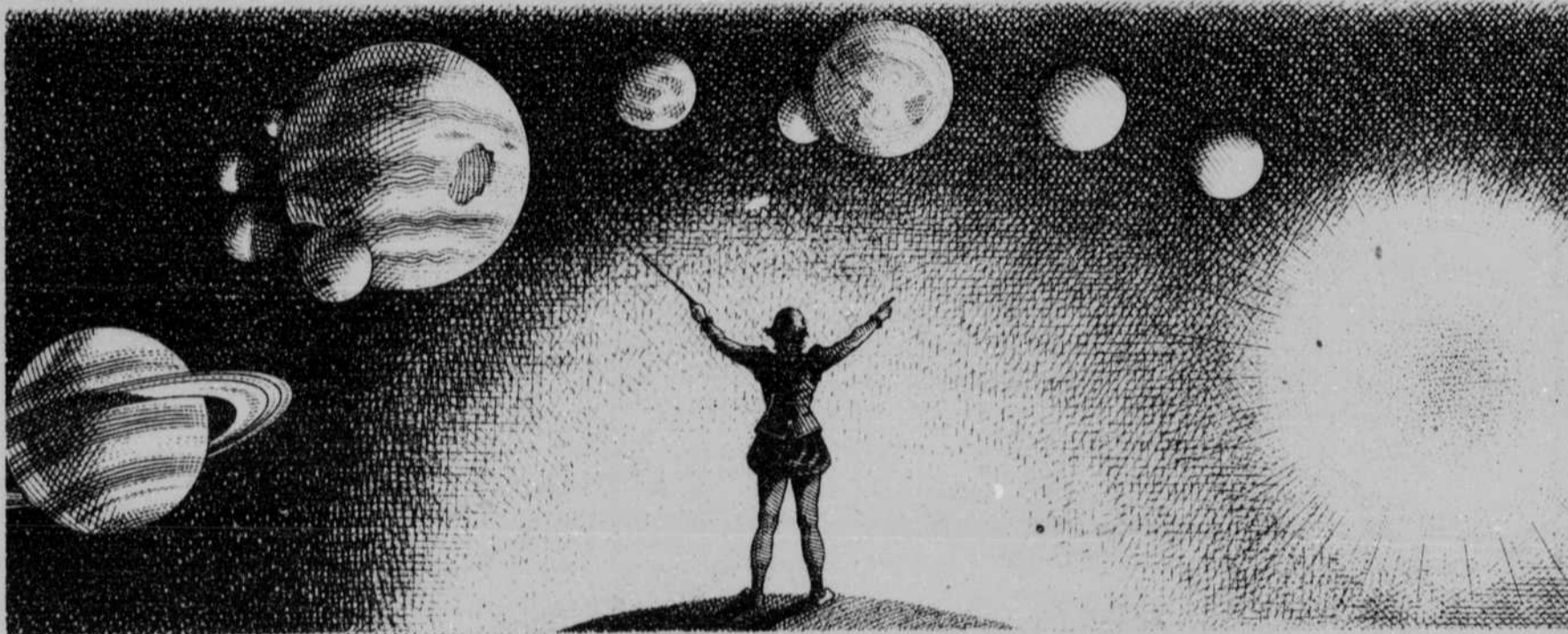
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