

Pay increases help UNL keep faculty, official says

By Shelley Miller
Staff Reporter

Increases in base pay for UNL professors over the last nine years have helped the university become more competitive with peer institutions, the Academic Senate president said.

James McShane said the \$23,000 average increase over nine years is impressive, but doesn't tell the whole story.

"We were, on the average, 20 percent below our peers when we went into the salary initiative three years ago," he said.

Three years ago, the Nebraska Legislature began increasing University of Nebraska salaries in an attempt to bring them closer to salaries

at a group of peer institutions.

Professors' salaries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln went from an average of \$30,337 in 1980-81 to \$53,303 in 1989-90, according to a recent report by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

The report compared pay increases to cost-of-living increases. If the Consumer Price Index had been the only factor considered, the average salary would have been \$44,472.

McShane said the change in pay scale has helped the university become better able to compete for the faculty members it needs.

McShane said he was not sure where UNL stood in relation to its peer universities, but he said it was important to maintain parity.

"If we fall back, we will have to play catch-up ball again," he said.

According to the report, UNL full professor salaries met or exceeded cost-of-living increases in seven of nine years of the study.

McShane said he hadn't gone over the report yet, but he would guess that the years UNL did not match inflation were during the farm crisis of the mid-'80s.

Of the 26 Nebraska postsecondary schools, both public and private, included in the report, UNL was second only to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in professor salaries.

"The increases look impressive, and they are," McShane said. "They represent a stalwart effort on the part of the state."

Increase in base pay for UNL professors

89-90 \$53,303

80-81 \$30,337



Source: Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

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China

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know how to appear nice and look good to the Western world."

Jiping said the Chinese Communist government is supporting the United Nations' actions in the Middle East as a strategy to regain acceptance from the Western World and to divert attention from the trials.

"Supporting the United Nations is a coverup, because they lost their face in the pro-democracy movement," she said. "The Chinese government does not really support the United Nations."

Jiping said the Chinese government wants the Western world to do it a favor and forget about the Tiananmen Square massacre.

But to maintain its power, she said, the government still must punish the pro-democracy leaders, or "black hands," who are a potential threat to the Communist regime.

But re-establishing another, nationwide democracy movement would be hard work, Jiping said.

"It will be difficult for the rural people to understand because of the economic, historical and cultural reasons," she said. "Some need to be more educated. It takes time."

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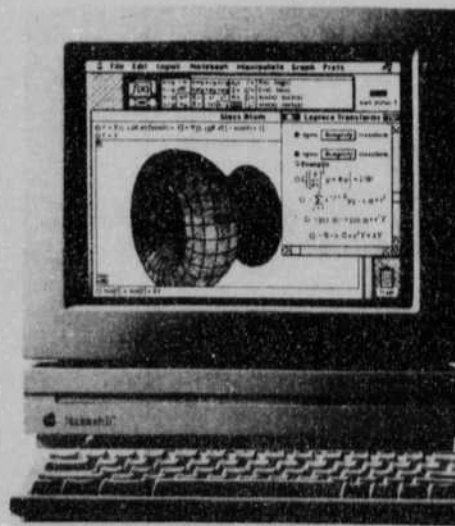
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