

Official sees bleak future for NU budget

By Kara Wells
Senior Editor

The university's hopes for a more optimistic economic outlook for Nebraska were dashed Thursday, a university official said.

Neale Copple, interim director of university relations, said the state Economic Forecasting Advisory Board's projections were disappointing.

The board, at its meeting Thursday, did not revise its overall revenue estimates for the next two years, which project little growth.

The board is estimating revenue of \$1.37 billion for 1990-91, \$1.43 billion for 1991-92 and \$1.5 billion for 1992-93.

University officials had been awaiting the projections, hoping for a more favorable outlook than the previous estimates, made in February.

A more favorable outlook may have meant that the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee would increase the amount it is proposing to give the University of Nebraska.

"This is bad news for the state and everyone," Copple said of the unchanged projections.

The Appropriations Committee so far has proposed a 4 percent increase for faculty and staff salaries at NU for the next two years. At the same time, it is proposing a 4 percent across-the-board cut for all state agencies, including NU.

NU faculty and staff members had been receiving salary increases of more than 10 percent for the last three years. For every 1 percent salaries would be increased under the current proposal, Copple said, the university would have to come up with \$1.4 million.

"If we account for the things we have to do (at the university), we still don't end up with enough new money to give raises," Copple said.

NU requested \$893.1 million in 1991-92 and \$971 million in 1992-93 in state support for the four campuses — the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Kearney, which joins the NU system July 1.

The Appropriations Committee has not made final the budget proposal it will submit to the full Legislature. The deadline is May 1.

Calendar of festivities set

Earth Day celebrations start early

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

With Earth Day slated for Monday, many organizations are springing up to celebrate.

Jeff Riggert, records and recycling coordinator for Ecology Now, said the group has several events planned for this weekend.

An Earth Day Fair will be today from 10 a.m. until dark, he said.

During that time, Ecology Now will host a recycling drive. Riggert said anyone can bring recyclables to

an area near Broyhill Fountain where Ecology Now will supply barrels for collection.

He said any profit from the recycling will go to Citizens for Environmental Improvement, a local environmental group that is \$12,000 in debt.

Information, buttons and T-shirts will be available, Riggert said.

EarthParty U.S.A., also sponsored by Ecology Now, will begin at 3:30 p.m. today. The Acorns, Bone Gravy and Sideshow will play at Broyhill Fountain until 7:30, Riggert said.

Tonight at 7:30, Cesar Chavez, an advocate of farm workers' rights, will speak in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, Ecology Now will conduct a cleanup along W. Van Dorn Street that will end near Wilderness Park. Riggert said anyone interested in participating can contact the Ecology Now office.

Riggert said Ecology Now will focus this year's events on counteracting a slip in environmental awareness.

Ecology Now members hope their

efforts will increase involvement, he said, by helping to "get people involved and bring about a better future for everyone on the planet."

Other weekend events include the Jazz Fest and Earth Day Fair from 1-5 p.m. Sunday in the Pinewood Bowl at Pioneer's Park sponsored by groups from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Also on Sunday, free earth walks will be offered by the Chet Ager Nature Center. There are three tours: More than Trees, Prairie Spring and the Earth Speaks. Each will begin at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Women faculty members urge proposal adoption

By Dionne Searcey
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln female faculty members are pressing the NU Board of Regents to iron out the disparities between male and female faculty salaries and hiring rates.

The Women's Caucus of the UNL Faculty on Thursday sent a letter to the University of Nebraska regents signed by 90 percent of women faculty members at UNL. The letter urged the regents to adopt the recommendations of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.

The recommendations call for hiring more women administrators, implementing family leave and day care policies and establishing equal salaries for women and better programs for women staff members.

The letter came one day before the regents' forum on gender issues. The NU regents requested the forum to

solicit input on the status of women.

The number and rank of male and female faculty members and the number of male and female administrators are among the topics to be discussed at the forum.

Steve Willborn, a member of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women and a College of Law professor, said the topics stem from concerns raised in meetings, open forums and studies completed throughout the year.

One study, he said, showed "serious salary disparities" between male and female employees.

The report showed that over the past 12 years men were paid an average of \$600 more than women faculty members. Men and women faculty members hired since 1978 experience a salary gap of \$1,300 to \$2,300.

The forum will be at 8:30 a.m. at Varner Hall.

Regents to rule on implementing faculty phased-retirement plan

By Dionne Searcey
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents Friday will decide whether to implement a retirement policy that has been called unacceptable by some UNL faculty members.

The "phased-out retirement program," as referred to by Academic Senate President James McShane, would give faculty members between the ages of 55 and 65 the option to cut their workloads to no more than 50 percent. Faculty members would be forced to retire seven years later.

McShane has said that in order to participate in the program, members would have to sign a waiver giving up federal rights that prohibit age discrimination.

The Academic Senate expressed

its dismay earlier this semester about the proposed phased retirement plan.

The Voluntary Phased Retirement Appointment Policy would make eligible any faculty member who has been employed by the University of Nebraska for 10 years. The program would provide a one-year trial period in which members could return to full-time service.

In other business, the NU regents are expected to approve the level of student fees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for 1991-92.

The recommended student fee level would mean a \$5.68 increase in the nonrefundable portion of student fees of \$147.46.

The recommended student fees would total \$6.7 million, opposed to the 1990-91 total of \$6.4 million.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Wednesday, April 17

9:23 a.m. — Bicycle stolen, south side of Nebraska Union, \$210.

12:42 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, 480 N. 16th St., \$360.

3:39 p.m. — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, parking lot west of Selleck Residence Hall, \$250.

3:43 p.m. — Two magazines stolen, Love Library, \$20.

4:32 p.m. — Man indecently exposed, north of Love Library.

8:31 p.m. — Vehicle door dented and punctured and window cracked, parking lot north of Veterinary Sciences, \$250.

Bread of human life topic of food series

From Staff Reports

The head of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln animal science department will speak in the East Union today at the final session of the brown-bag lunch series "Food for Thought."

Elton Aberle's noon address on "If Not By Bread Alone . . . Then What Else?" will be a personal response to the question of what is necessary for a fully human life beyond basic needs.

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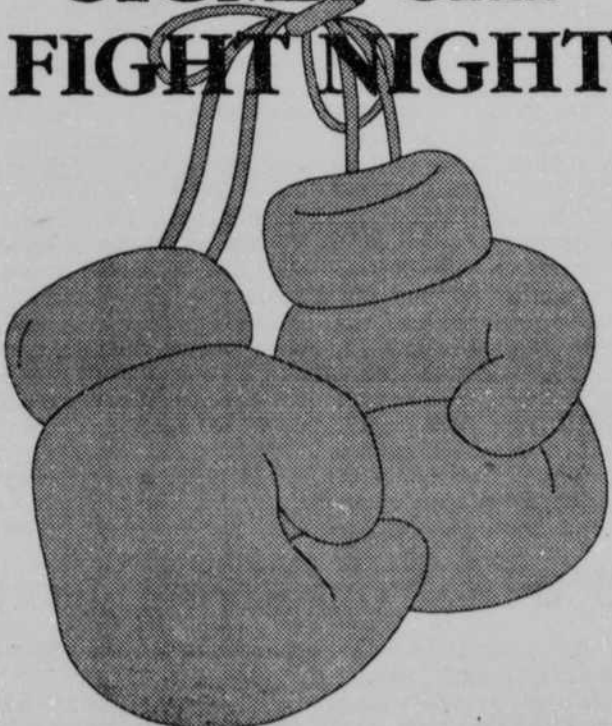
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Kingon

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countries is a shortage of investment in them.

"The investment isn't forthcoming from the West," Kingon said.

He said it is important to consider the ramifications for the United States

of the economic slump in the EC nations and their neighbors.

Last year, the United States did \$190 billion in two-way trade with the EC, and in 1991, more than \$200 billion is predicted.

Although officials in Washington like to talk about Japan, the EC nations collectively are the biggest trading partner of the United States, he said.

senators.

"Our input, as far as the Legislature goes, is not particularly welcome or effective," Wood said.

Tom Johnston, a spokesman for the Nebraska community colleges, said there is almost an animosity between the Legislature and the governing boards.

That means that if the governing boards don't work with the Legislature collectively, they won't have any impact, Johnston said.

Joseph Preusser, president of Central Community College, said he thought it would be better for the council to serve as an advisory group to the new coordinating commission than to continue on its own.

It would be better to be an outside group looking in, he said, than to act independently.

Council

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Board of Regents or Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, he said.

But some commission powers could step beyond coordination, Wood said.

The commission's power to establish statewide transfer of credit, selective admissions and enrollment policies, tuition and fees and peer groups would give it the authority to make policies that guide decision-making, he said. From a legal standpoint, he said, the use of the word policy in the legislation could infringe on powers reserved to governing boards.

Those powers could be particularly worrisome, he said, since state higher education governing boards now have little ability to influence

Beadle

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● The future University of Nebraska at Kearney would receive \$2.3 million to build an addition to Copeland Hall. UNK, which will join the NU system July 1, had requested \$1.3 million more than the Appropriations Committee granted to renovate the remainder of the hall.

● Wayne State College would receive \$4 million to construct a building to house its business program.

The committee declined to approve any funds for the renovation of four greenhouses on East Campus. The request was for \$500,000.

The committee's proposals will go for approval before the full Legislature.