

Budget

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bers admit that they would be lost without us," Pajnigar said, referring to services performed by managerial and office personnel.

She also said students depend on these services to handle financial aid and administrative processes.

Sandy Lineberry, president of the University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association, agreed and said cuts made in the office/service departments would force faculty to perform additional jobs.

"It is not an effective utilization of these personnel to ask of them that they handle administrative tasks in addition to their main and most important task — that of teaching," Lineberry said.

The groups said all positions, including tenured faculty, should be

evaluated in the budget cutting process.

Pajnigar said attempts to avoid cutting tenured faculty placed the brunt of budget cuts on managerial/professional and office/service employees.

"Tenure is to protect academic freedom of speech," Pajnigar said. "Tenure, in my opinion, is not a guarantee for lifetime employment."

Focusing the cuts on office and managerial positions will further enhance the questions of gender equity at UNL, she said. The majority of these positions are held by women.

She said an imbalance already existed in hiring women educators.

"If budget cuts are completed as proposed, it appears that a higher percentage of women will be affected by cuts than men," Lineberry said.

Exon touts Kerrey in show

By Adeana Leftin
Senior Reporter

U.S. Senator Jim Exon said Thursday that he would not let Bob Kerrey down in his run for president of the United States because Kerrey has never let him down.

"Nebraska and I think he has done perfectly well for Nebraska," Exon said via satellite from Washington, D.C., during a taping of "At Issue" for Nebraska Educational Television.

Exon said he believes Kerrey had a good chance in the election.

"He has a charisma, a quality and a demonstrated ability," Exon said. "(Kerrey has) met every challenge in his life and he has met that challenge successfully."

Kermit Brashear, former state Republican party chairman, agreed that Kerrey was "a genuine American hero," but said Kerrey's charm and good looks might be carried too far and detract from the issues.

One issue Brashear raised was Kerrey's brief time of public service and his foreign relations inexperience.

Jerry Sellentin, executive director of the Nebraskan Republican Party, agreed that Kerrey's international experience "is very lacking."

Exon said Kerrey has spent about the same time in public office as had John F. Kennedy when he was elected president.

Kennedy also had no international experience, he said, but he handled

the Cuban missile crisis his first year in office. He said Kerrey would "grow into" the responsibility.

While comparing Kerrey to Kennedy, Exon said he thought Kerrey had an advantage. As a small businessman, Exon said, Kerrey has had to earn his living and has acquired good managing skills.

Don Nelson, former Kerrey chief of staff, said Kerrey took personal responsibility for his efforts, could delegate well to people he trusted and could get the most out of those people.

Brashear disagreed. "I don't think he's a manager at all," he said. "He doesn't show the follow-through and consistency I think is required."

Wilson

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Nebraska does."

Variations of climate weren't the only differences Wilson has noticed about living in Nebraska.

"Our foods are more natural," Wilson said. "We eat fresh meat with no preservatives, and we also don't have to worry about the shelf life of our products because we usually eat fresh foods."

Despite Nebraska's being "too flat," Wilson said he feels the state is a nice place to live. Nebraskans are generally friendly, he said, but not as outgoing as New Zealanders.

"I've noticed that people here stay in their family cell," Wilson

"When you're only 24, scientists automatically doubt your ability. My reputation has not been established yet. When I get my doctorate, scientists will take my theory more seriously."

— Wilson
geology graduate student

said. "In New Zealand, we work with different kinds of people and socialize more."

Wilson said his travels have made him appreciate New Zealand, which is where he will make his permanent home.

Before returning to New Zealand in late December, Wilson said he plans to show a slide presentation of New Zealand.

"The show is a 'tiki tour,' or brief overview of New Zealand," Wilson said. "Anyone who is interested in New Zealand is welcome to come."

Wilson plans to return to UNL from New Zealand in May.

Loans

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time it takes for the student to receive the loan check will be reduced from about six weeks to two days. The proposal also would eliminate the 30-day waiting period for first-time borrowers.

The biggest benefit to students, Beacon said, is that it gives them more "real" money. The simplification of the loan process also is a major asset, he said.

"I can't help but think it's going to save some money," Beacon said.

But Beacon said the \$20 processing fee paid to the college may not be enough to cover costs of processing the loans.

Another problem is that the servicing of loans has not been discussed within the proposal. The current law for due diligence says the student must be contacted 22 times in the first 180 days after the student leaves school. This would put a large burden on the colleges that may not have the staff for such an undertaking.

Students who have problems with

their loans will have to deal with the federal government rather than with a nearby bank, Beacon said.

And the higher dollar amount of the loans means a higher potential for default, Beacon said.

He said he thinks the program will be run similar to the Perkins Loan Program, a direct loan that has a low default rate among UNL students.

"I philosophically favor the direct lending program if it puts more dollars in the students' hands and is simpler and faster," Beacon said. "It may be worth looking at the current system and correcting some of the problems."

"If I can't administer it, if I have handcuffs on, then I don't favor it."

Banks are powerful lobbyists, Beacon said, and are working to make sure the program stays the way it is. However, he said that since the program is proposed to begin in 500 institutions in the 1994-95 academic year and increase to 1,000 the following year, banks being phased out will have no incentive to offer loans to students at institutions not yet part of the program. This, Beacon said, may cause the government to administer the program all at once.

ASUN

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Increases in tuition have not been matched by increases in state funding to help cover the gap, he said.

Heidi Putensen, senator from the College of Business Administration, said it is ironic that some professors were willing to eliminate other faculty in the name of salary increases.

The group said it was opposed to the elimination of the speech communication and classics departments, the movement of the Counseling Center to the University Health Center and the decision not to hire an additional UNL police officer.

George Tuck, president of the Academic Senate, said members of the senate's executive committee were not present to make recommendations on the proposed eliminations. Instead, he offered the committee advice before it made further decisions.

Tuck reminded the group that recent information on state-aided programs would help the committee determine the impact of proposed cuts. If the budget data on a particular item is not available, he said, the program should not be cut.

"The timeline is not carved in stone," he said. "If your committee cannot find enough items to produce a 2-percent cut, then it can ask for more information."

The committee has several difficult decisions to face, Tuck said.

"No one is going to come up and volunteer their program to be cut," he said. "You're not going to find something that is going to satisfy everyone."

Esther Martinez, an assistant professor of modern languages, ended the first round of hearings on behalf of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Minorities.

Cuts in the College of Home Economics, Teachers College and speech programs go against the university's desire to promote gender equity, she said, and are a "step backward in this campus' efforts to recruit racial minorities."

Martinez said 12 of the 25 tenured or tenure-leading positions threatened by the proposals are held by women.

"However, rather than throw out the baby, the bath water and the basin, we need to add fresh water and institute a serious recruitment and retention policy for women, for racial minorities and for women of color," she said.

Martinez said some of the programs slated for elimination are vital to the university.

"No university that does not offer a sound and thorough grounding in the classics is worthy of the name," she said. "It is merely community college masquerading as a university."

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