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Tuition increase serves students, official says

By Mike Lewis
 Senior Editor

UNL's 7.5-percent tuition increase may translate into larger figures on students' bills this fall, but the benefits could be greater in the long run.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the revenue from this increase would help pay for a new student information system to be installed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Because the new information system should lower operating costs, it could cut down on future tuition hikes, he said.

The system will allow students to use touch-tone phones to register for classes, apply for financial aid and check on the status of their financial aid applications, Griesen said.

It also will allow students and advisers to perform degree audits from a computer terminal, he said, and it will centralize accounts so students will get just one itemized bill for all their university-related expenses.

UNL will spend \$4 million over the next five years installing the computerized system, Griesen said.

The tuition increase also will cover the anticipated \$150,000 loss of revenue that will result from the elimination of the \$5 drop/add fee charged to students, he said.

This fee removal, with the cost of installing the student information system, meant tuition had to be increased more than what had been anticipated, Griesen said. Initially, he said, UNL had foreseen a tuition hike of 5 percent.

Undergraduate resident tuition for 1992-93 will be \$61.50 per credit hour, up from \$57.25 last year. For non-resident undergraduates, tuition

will be \$167.50 per credit hour, up from \$155.75.

Graduate residents will pay \$81.50 per credit hour, while graduate non-residents will pay \$201.25. Last year's costs were \$75.75 and \$187.25, respectively.

For law students, resident tuition will be \$80 a credit hour, up from last year's \$74.50. Non-resident tuition will be \$205.25 per credit hour, up from \$191 last year.

Students enrolled for seven or more credit hours also will pay \$171 per semester in University Program and Facilities Fees — an increase of \$10 over last year's fees.

According to a study conducted by Griesen's office in June, UNL has the second-lowest tuition costs for the 1992-93 academic year out of the 11 schools in its peer group. UNL also has the lowest mandatory fee rates, excluding health fees, of any school in its peer group.

UNL had the same rankings last year, Griesen said.

"We're not going to change greatly from where we are in our peer group," he said.

Schools in UNL's peer group are Illinois, Ohio State, Minnesota, Colorado, Colorado State, Missouri, Purdue, Iowa, Iowa State and Kansas.

A similar study conducted by Griesen's office in February ranked UNL fourth in tuition costs and last in mandatory fees among Big Eight Conference schools for the 1991-92 academic year.

Griesen said these rankings would be about the same this year.

UNL's tuition increase is comparable to tuition hikes at other Big Eight schools and at peer institutions, he said.

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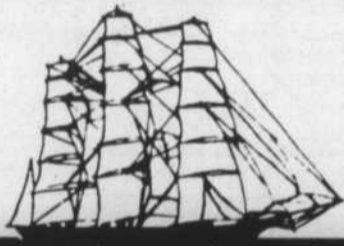
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Orientation focuses on real issues

By Mark Harms
 Staff Reporter

Real-life campus issues that new students need to know about is the focus of this year's Big Red Welcome Week, said Patrick McBride, director of New Student Enrollment at UNL.

In the past, McBride said, the program was a one-day event that dealt mainly with topics such as tips on academic success, meeting other students and how to find classes on campus.

UNL now offers a week of orientation sessions on subjects ranging from choosing a career, financial aid and campus safety to ethnic diversity, date rape and avoiding alcohol abuse.

Last Friday at Hamilton Hall, the program offered a session, titled "How to Have a Blast Without Getting Bomed," that dealt with alcohol problems on campus and ways students can enjoy themselves without drinking.

Students Taking a New Direction, a new student organization devoted to students who have chosen not to drink or to drink in low-risk ways, sponsored the session.

Janet Crawford, the group's faculty adviser and UNL coordinator of community health education, said at the session that drinking at parties was a common activity for students.

In interviews conducted with 40 UNL students — 20 women and 20 men — Crawford said she discovered that drinking games greatly increased students' alcohol consumption and that women drank more than men.

She said that men, if they are not playing a drinking game, drink about a half a can of beer every 15 minutes but would drink 1 1/2 cans if they were playing.

Women drank about about one can in 15 minutes if not playing a drinking game and two cans if they were playing, she said.

The organization is having a picnic at Holmes Park Thursday and a stand-up comedy performance at Noodles Comedy Club on October 22.

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