

# Cuts come at bad time, officials say

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson's proposal to cut state appropriations to the University of Nebraska may trip NU just as it was beginning to regain its footing, an official said.

NU President Martin Massengale said the proposed cuts came just as the university was beginning to recover from budget cuts in the mid-1980s.

"We had just reclaimed lost ground," he said, "and now we're looking at more cuts."

Joe Rowson, director of public affairs at NU, said the budget cuts in the mid-1980s were especially difficult because they came in the middle of the fiscal year.

Plans for maintenance and new

supplies had to be put off, Rowson said. But the most significant result of the 1980s cuts, he said, was NU falling behind its peer institutions in faculty salaries.

"I'd hate to see the pattern we went through in the mid-1980s resurface," he said.

After the series of cuts ended, Rowson said, the university's first goal was to increase faculty salaries so that it could become competitive with its peers.

"The university regained its position in terms of salaries," he said, "and it was just beginning to get back on track with deferred maintenance and supplies."

The new budget cuts again are hitting during the middle of the fiscal year, Rowson said, and they will affect NU's operational budget, which

includes maintenance and supplies.

Massengale said mid-year budget cuts were especially painful.

Salaries cannot be decreased during the middle of a year, he said, because faculty are already teaching courses. Therefore, maintenance and supplies purchases must wait, he said.

Nelson's proposal also called for a two-year delay in university capital construction projects, including renovation of the Arts and Sciences Building at UNO and construction of additional classrooms at UNK.

But Rowson said Massengale proposed a plan that would begin construction as scheduled, but delay the repayment of the construction bonds.

Rowson said Massengale was hoping to take advantage of low interest rates and stretch the repayment of the bonds over a longer period of time.

## POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Wednesday

8:25 a.m. — False fire alarm, Abel Residence Hall.

11:20 a.m. — Wallet stolen, Neihardt Residence Hall, \$32.

3:10 p.m. — Verbal disturbance between two women, Nebraska Union.


3:58 p.m. — Backpack stolen, Nebraska Union, \$140.

4:32 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, parking lot at 14th and Avery streets, \$400.

7:16 p.m. — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, 400 University Terrace, \$450.

7:50 p.m. — \$258 stolen from vehicle, parking lot at 17th and Court streets.

10:15 p.m. — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, \$600.



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