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Today, partly cloudy and cooler. Friday, dry with wind becoming light and variable.

Chancellor announces specific program cuts

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Four programs and 36 full-time positions will be eliminated at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln next year as part of a 1992 legislative-mandated budget cut.



The Academic Success Center, Writing Lab, Czech language program and funding for off-campus extension grants all will be eliminated before next semester. The eliminations will save the university \$130,000.

The budget cuts, totaling \$2.9 million, have loomed over the university since they were announced in a special legislative session last

September. Chancellor Graham Spanier specified the cuts at a news conference Wednesday. He said the \$2.9 million cut should not be confused with the cuts currently pending in the Legislature.

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"The timing should not confuse anyone that we are dealing with current cuts," he said. "This is the final step in responding to cuts in the 1991-93 biennium."

Although no colleges were eliminated in the latest round of cuts, Spanier said the quality of instruction eventually would suffer.

"Anytime you reduce the university's budget by a couple million dollars, we can't claim we're emerging as a better institution," he said.

The two-page list, compiled by UNL administration, names 71 areas to cut. All areas for reduction were specific, Spanier said, which eliminated the need for across-the-board cuts.

The cuts, which represent 1.5 percent of the total budget, will also eliminate 21 administrative and support staff positions, which account for \$594,000. Custodial, secretarial and other staff positions make up for the majority of the job eliminations.

Fifteen full-time faculty positions will be eliminated to save \$781,000, Spanier said, but no tenured faculty will lose their positions.

The biggest section of cuts came from changes in summer sessions. The cuts total \$1.012 million, most of which comes from the reduction of professor compensation for summer sessions. Classes also will increase in size

due to the cuts, Spanier said.

"It's fair to say the single largest impact is concentrated in summer sessions," he said.

Reductions in operating, travel and maintenance fees account for \$382,000. Operating and travel expenses for the Behlen Observatory will be eliminated under this section of cuts. Kimball Hall, the Division of Continuing Studies, the Bob Devaney Sports Center and mail service all will suffer cuts under the proposal.

The cuts were made after consultation with the Academic Planning Committee and the Academic Senate Executive Committee.

The Legislature is expected to discuss a proposed \$3.5 million budget cut next week. If approved, it would increase the total budget cuts to \$9.5 million since Spanier came to UNL 18 months ago.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Workers on strike from American Signature printing company cheer as strike supporters drive by Wednesday.

Unions blame working conditions for strike

Groups combine to protest hours, benefit packages

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Employees of the American Signature plant in northwest Lincoln walked out on their shifts late Tuesday night, beginning a strike they said would continue for days.

About 700 workers are involved in the strike against the printing and binding company. Bad working conditions and poor benefit

packages prompted the strike, Steve Rich, a union representative, said.

"We're not asking for a raise, all we want is working conditions we had before," he said.

Problems began at the plant last year after it was acquired by Heller Financial Group of Chicago, Rich said. The financial group is a subsidiary of the Japan-based Fuji corporation.

Employee Randy Kuhn of Lincoln said negotiations had been going on for more than a year, but broke down Tuesday.

"We were really forced in to this," he said. "Health care premiums are skyrocketing and coverage has gone down."

American Signature officials at the scene would not speak to the Daily Nebraskan Wednesday.

The strikers represent a coalition of three unions: Graphics Communication International Union of Press Workers No. 221, Bindery Workers No. 520 and International Machinists Union Local No. 31.

Production work was believed to be continuing at the plant Wednesday, union members said, with office personnel running machines.

"That's very unsafe, putting them on high speed machines," Kuhn said. "You can look at half of the (regular employees) in the de-

partment without fingers."

Employees of the plant said they thought the company was hiring new employees to replace them.

"Nebraska is a right to work state," he said. "They can hire whoever they want if we're on strike."

Negotiation meetings between union workers and company officials were held Wednesday, but no progress was made, Kuhn said.

Kyle Stickelman, a freshman general studies major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has worked at the plant for five years. The problems began when the work

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Bjorklund requests to defend self

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

One of the men charged with last fall's murder of a UNL student has requested to defend himself in his upcoming trial, and at least one county official is wondering why.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said Wednesday he didn't understand the motivation behind Candice Harms murder suspect Roger Bjorklund's request for self-counsel.

"You'd have to ask him," Lacey said. "I really don't know why he did it."

At a hearing Monday, Bjorklund asked Lancaster County District Court Judge Donald Endacott to grant him the option of defending himself in his first-degree murder trial, which is scheduled to begin Oct. 18.

Bjorklund and Scott Barney, both of Lincoln, are charged with the first-degree murder of Harms, an 18-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student who disappeared Sept. 22.

Last Dec. 6, a few days after the two men had been arrested in connection with a string of robberies and burglaries in the Lincoln area, Barney led investigators to a site southeast of Lincoln, where Harms' body was found in a shallow grave in a cornfield.

Barney apparently had agreed to cooperate with authorities investigating the Harms case in exchange for immunity from the death penalty.

Lacey said he was seeking the death penalty for Bjorklund, but not for Barney, who will testify against Bjorklund.

Bjorklund said Monday that he had filed a complaint against the Public Defender's Office with the Nebraska Bar Association's council of discipline.

He said his attorneys — particularly Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie — had shown a "lack of aggressiveness" in defending him in the case, and that he thought he could better defend himself.

Also, he said, he thought there was a conflict of interest between the Public Defender's office and the Lancaster County Attorney's office. He told Endacott he thought the county attorney's office was "superior," and would have more influence in deciding his case.

Helvie refused to comment on the matter.

Lacey said he did not know if Bjorklund would be able to successfully defend himself, if Endacott granted the request.

"We'll find out soon enough," he said.

University honors dead civil rights leader

By Steve Smith
Senior Reporter

About 60 students, faculty and administrators gathered in front of the Nebraska Union Wednesday to pay tribute to Cesar Chavez, a civil rights champion who died Friday.

Chavez, 66, was often referred to as an "American Gandhi" and was most famous for launching a drive to raise wages and improve economic

conditions among Mexican-American farm workers in the late 1960s.

In 1964, he unionized workers in the grape fields and formed the United Farm Workers Union. He organized several grape-picker strikes, the most well-known "huelga" occurring in 1965 in Delano, Calif. He later turned to calling for nationwide boycotts of lettuce and grapes.

Nine speakers were featured during the hour-long tribute that was sponsored by UNL's Office of

Multi-Cultural Affairs and campus Affirmative Action.

Miguel Carranza, the acting associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said Chavez battled through difficulties so others like him would not have to.

"Chavez went through his struggles so that we wouldn't be just migrant workers, so that we could go to universities and to other professions," Carranza said. "Unfortunately, that's not true with all of us — we need to

take the next step.

"We need to take Cesar's legacy and use the university as a setting to stimulate social consciousness," he said.

Carranza challenged the university administration to boycott grapes in campus cafeterias, which drew applause from the crowd.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said all Americans

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