

# Daily Nebraskan

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February 15, 1995

## NU faces preliminary budget cuts **New budget cut**

By J. Christopher Hain  
Senior Reporter

What goes up must come down. In January, Gov. Ben Nelson recommended a budget increase for the University of Nebraska, but Monday the Legislature's Appropriations Committee finalized a preliminary recommendation that amounted to a decrease.

Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, cautioned that the preliminary budget cut was just



LEGISLATURE

that — preliminary. "The odds are pretty low we're going to take all those cuts," Wehrbein said. Kathy Tenopir of the Legislature's Fiscal Analysis office said details of the committee's cuts would be available later in the week, but she said the recommendation included a \$4.5 million cut.

That cut would come from several areas, and including an across-the-board cut, the total reduction to NU's budget would amount to a cut equal to 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's total budget of \$305.3 million. That would equal \$7.6 million.

The university's next move, said Randy Haack, director of budgets and analysis for NU, is to assess what effect the committee's recommendations would have on the university.

Under the direction of NU President Dennis Smith, the university then would meet with the committee

March 7, Haack said, and lay out the impact of the proposed cuts and identify what other priorities would not be met by proposed funding.

In the meantime, he said, the university would determine what kind of budget could be put together from the recommended cuts.

Wehrbein said most state agencies faced preliminary recommendations of a 10 percent budget cut.

Those recommendations usually amounted to areas that could be cut if

See BUDGET on 3

Despite a recommendation budget increase for the University of Nebraska by Gov. Ben Nelson, the Legislature's Appropriations committee has finalized a budget that would hand NU a budget decrease.

■ Cuts would come from several areas, including an across-the-board cut.  
■ The total cut would amount to 2.5 percent of the University's \$305.3 million budget for the current fiscal year.



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska head football coach Tom Osborne (right), along with co-captains Terry Connealy (middle) and Rob Zatechka, accept The Associated Press national championship trophy.

## NU football team awarded AP trophy

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska football team finally received the other trophy for winning its national championship.

At halftime of the Nebraska men's basketball game against Kansas, Coach Tom Osborne and 12 players took the court and accepted The Associated Press national championship trophy from Paul Simon, Nebraska AP bureau chief.

The Cornhuskers received the CNN/USA

Today championship trophy on Jan. 3, two days after beating Miami 24-17 in the FedEx Orange Bowl.

Osborne handed the trophy to captains Terry Connealy, Ed Stewart and Rob Zatechka, and together the three held up the trophy to a standing ovation from the sell-out crowd of 14,552.

To conclude the 15-minute ceremony, each of the 12 Nebraska players and Osborne received awards for individual achievement.

Osborne was the presented the AP Big Eight coach-of-the-year award from Ath-

letic Director Bill Byrne.

Osborne then presented the other awards to his players.

Six players received their awards for first-team All-Big Eight honors. Linebacker Troy Dumas, center Aaron Graham, outside linebacker Donta Jones, I-back Lawrence Phillips and cornerbacks Barron Miles and Tyrone Williams were all honored.

Punter Darin Erstad and Graham also received Phillips 66 Academic All-Big Eight honors.

## Spirit plates can't drive past state senators

By J. Christopher Hain  
Senior Reporter

The president of the UNL Alumni Association would like Cornhusker fans to show their spirit whenever they drive.

Brian Van Deun is used to trying to stir up spirit among alumni, but he has had trouble getting legislation passed in Nebraska that would allow for Cornhusker license plates.

Van Deun said he had heard much support from alumni for Cornhusker plates; however, legislation providing for them has been frequently proposed but never passed.

This year, Van Deun has worked with Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha, who has sponsored LB620 to provide license plates with "Nebraska Cornhuskers" printed on them for \$50.

Van Deun was involved in developing the first such plates in the country for Penn State University, when he worked in Pennsylvania.

Van Deun said most of the spirit plate programs in other states also had been used as a way to raise money for scholarships. Van Deun said that was the main reason to implement spirit plates, and he said he hoped scholarship funds could be worked into Nebraska's program.

LB620 has already had its committee hearing, but hasn't yet been moved to the floor of the Legislature.

But LB465, another bill that would provide for specialty plates, has been advanced to the floor. Under this bill, any non-profit organization that orders a minimum of 500 plates could receive specialty plates for \$30.

Specialty plates produced under LB465 would provide a decal for each organization ordering a plate, but the decal would be placed on the same basic plate for every organization.

See PLATES on 3

## Regent Miller presents concerns to Academic Senate

By Chad Lorenz  
Staff Reporter

Regent Drew Miller described his vision for 1995 to the Academic Senate Tuesday.

"I'm being realistic in terms of what one regent can do to improve the university," the regent from Papillion said.

Miller said his first priority, the same he stood on for his election platform, was administrative process redesign. He said he thought continual improvement was necessary for a smooth, efficient administration.

Miller's second priority is aiding improvement of engineering education.

The quality of engineering education didn't meet a satisfactory level to attract vital indus-

try to Nebraska, Miller said. He said this lack of quality discouraged companies such as Mercedes Benz and BMW from deciding to build plants in the state.

The engineering college should focus on applied education with an emphasis on hands-on learning, he said.

As an incentive, Miller said Micron Technology Inc. was considering Omaha as a site for a computer chip factory, providing 3,500 high-paying, skilled jobs.

Rebuilding the university's libraries ranked third on Miller's agenda. Miller said he would like to see the university develop a virtual or

electronic library as hard copy information became obsolete.

Deferred maintenance was Miller's fourth area of concern. Miller said delaying necessary maintenance did not save the university money and could end up costing more.

"We need to put more funding in the area of catching up on maintenance," he said.

In other business, the senate heard Chancellor Graham Spanier's feelings on gender equity efforts and an adjusted grading scale.

Spanier said the university needed to generate ideas to increase its number of women faculty. He said he felt optimistic about the university's efforts.

Jane Conoley, chairwoman of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of

Women, said 49 women would need to be hired to reach the midpoint among peer institutions.

If the university continued to hire at its current rate, she said, it would lose ground to the peer institutions.

"We are getting better, but not as fast as the rest of the world," Conoley said.

The commission will present a full report on gender equity at Saturday's regents meeting.

About the grading proposal, Spanier said any system would work. The proposed system would add minus grades.

The Academic Senate will discuss the revised grading proposal at its March meeting.

