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**Union stores
may disallow
tobacco sales**

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Assignment Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students may have to find places other than the Nebraska Unions to feed their nicotine cravings next year.

At Tuesday's Union Board meeting, Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Unions director, said a proposal in the Nebraska Unions' 1998-99 University Program and Facility Fees annual budget requests stopping the sales of tobacco products at all outlets under union management.

"It was pointed out to me by my colleagues that it has been the university's goal to promote wellness," Swanson said. "It is very contradictory for UNL to sell tobacco, but still declare all buildings tobacco free and have the University Health Center and Office of Campus Recreation promote wellness."

Union Board President Saad Alavi said student members of the Union Board, including himself, do not agree with Swanson's request.

"The Union Board does have a concern about the discontinuation of tobacco sales in the union," Saad said. "We feel tobacco sales at the city and east union information desks should continue."

After discussion between students and Swanson, Jess Sweley, a junior biosystems engineering major, asked the board to accept Swanson's budget request. Sweley also asked the board to write a resolution clearly stating its position.

Union Board members agreed in a 7-1 vote to accept Swanson's request and to submit a resolution asking CFA on Thursday to include the continuation of tobacco sales.

If approved as proposed, the removal of tobacco sales would reduce the unions' net income by \$31,140.

Please see TOBACCO on 8

**Health center funds
sufficient for 1998-99**

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter



With a substantial Nebraska Union budget increase request looming Thursday, the Committee for Fees Allocation was happy that the University Health Center asked for no increase Tuesday.

The health center requested a zero percent budget increase from student fees for 1998-99.

The health center is not asking for any money from student fees this year mainly because they are getting the money through increased insurance revenue and the increased self-sufficiency of specialty clinics.

On Thursday, the Union Board may ask CFA to increase student fees by at least 5 percent, possibly by as much as 9 percent.

C.F. Simmons, vice chairman of CFA, said the health center was generating more revenue itself because it has become a "preferred provider" with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska.

More income is provided this way because the health center now has access to direct claims filing procedures and maximum reimbursement levels for services provided to Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance holders.

The health center also has more revenue due after some of its specialty clinics, such as the dentistry clinic, became self-supporting, Simmons said.

Linda Herrmann, UHC director, said even though the health center was not asking for an increase, the budget was "extremely tight."

"We are very conscious of the need to hold down fees," Herrmann said.

The health center is requesting \$5.67 million this year, which is less than a one percent increase from last year.

Simmons said that increase would cover costs such as those incurred when the health center switched over to UNL Centrex services last year, as well as the increased cost of medical supplies due to inflation.

Simmons said the health center's request was impressive and should be encouraging to students.

"They are keeping fees low and service high to students," Simmons said.

CFA used Tuesday to just look at the health center's budget request; it will vote on it Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.

**NU asks state to help
with money shortfall**

BY BRAD DAVIS
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska could be scraping for money if the Legislature doesn't fund NU's \$3.2 million deficit funding request.

At Tuesday's Appropriations Committee meeting, NU President Dennis Smith asked the state to make up for the university's shortfall in its 1997-1999 biannual budget.

When NU issued its budget for the biennium in 1996, Smith said it misjudged the amount of students the university would lose in the 1997 fiscal year.

Smith said the loss was due to higher admissions standards, along with a robust state economy.

NU's request calls for about \$1.4 million from the state for the next two years to make up for the lost tuition revenue.

But just because the university lost about 5 percent of its total enrollment, Smith said, it does not mean services can be cut by 5 percent.

If anything, Smith said, NU's classes would be 5 percent smaller.

The university originally planned for about 800 fewer students to enroll

this year because of the new admissions standards, Smith said. NU actually lost about 2,500 students this year, about 850 of which were graduate students.

NU Provost Lee Jones said the university had not lost graduate students in several years.

Smith said, "The bottom line is that when the Board of Regents sets the university's operating budget each June, inexact estimates must be made about the number of students expected to enroll. And we were off-badly."

Sen. Joyce Hillman of Gering said she thought the loss of students could be due to high school students' lack of preparation to enter the university.

She said high school teachers and administrators may not be adequately preparing students to meet NU standards.

Sen. Dave Pederson of North Platte agreed and encouraged the university to be proactive in spreading the word about its higher standards.

Smith said not only was NU actively involved in informing high schools

Please see DEBT on 8

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