

# Student fees to increase

## Amount remains comparable in Big 12

By BRAD DAVIS  
Senior Reporter

Although UNL's student fees are scheduled to increase nearly 16 percent next year, students will still probably pay less money than almost half their peers at other universities.

Student fees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are set to increase next year from \$494 to \$620 per year. UNL is currently the third-lowest fee-charging university among other public universities in the Big 12 (not including Baylor University, which is a private institution).

Next year, UNL would become the fifth-highest fee-charger among those 11 universities, but only if those institutions keep fees at their current levels. And that isn't likely.

While last year's fees can provide an indication of where UNL might stand among its peers next year, until all schools set their fees, it is impossible to compare.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said UNL has historically charged relatively low student fees.

In the 1995-1996 academic year, Griesen said the university had the lowest student fees in the Big 8.

Major building renovations and additions, Griesen said, have caused the greatest increases in student fees.

Twenty dollars of UNL's increase next year is for the Nebraska Union renovation and was decided by a student referendum vote and subsequent approval by the NU Board of Regents in 1995.

Without this \$20 increase, the University Program and Facilities Fees for the 1998-1999 academic year are set to increase by 6.28 percent, Griesen said.

Those fees, called UPFF, are set by the student government's Committee for Fees Allocation and are then approved by Griesen and UNL Chancellor James Moeser.

Griesen said the fee increase accounted for about 1,100 fewer fee-paying students enrolled this fall, and projections for future enrollment are on the decline.

With a lower base of students paying the fees for the same amount of facilities and programs, Griesen said the fees must increase.

The decrease in enrollment could be attributed to UNL's stricter admissions standards adopted last fall, along with a strong economy that lures some would-be students into the job market, Griesen said.

“I think we give students a very good return on their investment.”

JAMES GRIESEN  
vice chancellor for Student Affairs

Another part of the total fee increase, unrelated to the UPFF increase, is related to UNL's technology fee, which was planned to increase incrementally over a period of three years.

The university assessed a \$2 per credit hour fee this year, and will charge \$4 per credit hour next year, ultimately charging the \$5 per credit hour maximum in 1999-2000.

Though some students may complain, Griesen said the “taxes” they must pay to support university facilities and programming are well-spent.

“I think we give students a very good return on their investment,” Griesen said.

“I think they're getting a good buy.”

# Repair bill moves on to next stage of debate

■ The proposed measure would grant UNL money to pay off 11 renovation projects and set up a fund for future repairs.

By TODD ANDERSON  
Assignment Reporter

Bancroft Hall and other dilapidated state college buildings are one step closer to getting a facelift after the Legislature voted unanimously to advance LB1100 to the second round of debate Thursday.

Omaha Sen. Dan Lynch, the sponsor of the bill, said now is the time to pay for long-overdue building repairs and building maintenance.

“This is the first time in almost 25 years that we've taken this responsibility seriously,” Lynch said. “This Legislature finally will be known as the one that did something about it.”

The bill would give the University of Nebraska-Lincoln \$5.5 million dollars each year for the next 10 years to pay off the low interest bonds used to finance 11 renovation projects. The university would match the amount given by the Legislature.

The bill also would create a fund to provide for future emergency repairs of all buildings operated by the state, NU and other state

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colleges.

In addition, state agencies would be required to set aside 2 percent of their budgets for building maintenance.

Sen. Deb Suttle of Omaha said the state of several buildings is “deplorable.” She said the bill would make sure “we won't find ourselves in this kind of bind again.”

Also during floor debate Thursday, senators advanced LB1228, the Quality Education Accountability Act. The five-part proposal would establish statewide education standards and provide for testing.

LB989, introduced by Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron, would limit increases in school spending by placing a 2.5 percent cap on school district budgets. The bill was also advanced to select file.

Finally, senators voted on LB1138, which would give money to the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees to pay for building renovation and maintenance at Peru State College.

After adding a committee amendment that would call for a study by the Post-secondary Coordinating Commission to determine the best plan for Peru State College, the Legislature advanced the bill to second-round debate.

# U.N. weapons team resumes 'surprise' Iraqi inspections

## An American remains head of the group

■ Palace inspections will not begin again until certain rules have been established between Iraq and the United States.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A 50-member team of U.N. weapons inspectors returned to Iraq on Thursday, led by an American whose presence helped touch off the Gulf crisis — a standoff they hope to verify is over.

Scott Ritter and his team arrived from Bahrain at the Habaniya military airport outside Baghdad and were driven to the U.N. headquarters in a van and a bus.

Ritter's team will “carry out inspections, including surprise inspections, to some of the sensitive sites,” the official Iraqi News Agency said.

Sensitive sites are ministries and security facilities, which can be inspected only under special procedures in effect since June 1996.

Ritter's team had been prevented from entering some suspected weapons sites in January after Iraq

alleged he was an American spy and his team had a disproportionately high number of Americans.

Ritter left Iraq on Jan. 16, and chief inspector Richard Butler ordered him back in, said Allen Dacey, the inspectors' spokesman in Baghdad.

In an unusual move, the government told television crews and photographers they cannot go into the U.N. headquarters to cover Ritter's arrival. One ministry official said Ritter “is not an important event.”

His return follows the U.N.-Iraq accord of Feb. 23 under which Iraq agreed to give inspectors full access to eight presidential palaces Baghdad previously declared off limits.

The accord was worked out by U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who appointed a retired Indian diplomat on Thursday as his special representative to Iraq. Prakash Shah, 58, a former Indian ambassador to the United Nations, is part of an effort by Annan to expand contacts with the Iraqi leadership.

Palace inspections are not expected to start until the United Nations and the Iraqis agree on new rules for them. Those rules,

the subject of intense discussions Thursday between U.N. and Iraqi officials in New York, have not yet been finalized. But diplomatic sources said a draft was delivered to Iraqi officials on Wednesday.

Ritter's team is only one of several that are deployed in Iraq. The other groups have worked daily, including through the crisis over the presidential sites.

INA said eight teams carried out inspections Thursday of seven sites already under surveillance. It is not known when Ritter and his team will start their work.

The 15-member U.N. Security Council has warned Iraq of “severest consequences” if it reneges on the Feb. 23 accord.

U.S. officials say the resolution gives the United States a green light to attack Iraq in such a case. But council members Russia, France and China insist the resolution does not authorize automatic military action.

The weapons inspectors must certify whether Iraq has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction before U.N. sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of neighboring Kuwait, can be lifted.

# Lunar water increases likelihood of space base

## Spacecraft finds deposits of ice

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA officials said Thursday they believed there was enough water frozen in the moon's soil to support a lunar base, or even to one day support a human colony.

“For the first time, we may be able to go to another space body and fuel up” by converting the ice to liquid water that could then be used to make rocket propellant or breathing oxygen, said Alan Binder, lead scientist for the Lunar Prospector spacecraft.

The water is in the form of small, scattered pockets of ice that have been found beneath the lunar surface by a robot survey spacecraft that has spent the last month mapping the moon.

The water, apparently confined to the polar regions, is scattered in small deposits across thousands of square miles of the lunar poles, according to the data from the Lunar Prospector.

William Feldman, an Energy Department researcher participating in the project, estimated there could be 11 million to 330 million tons of ice dispersed across about 18,000 square miles of the north pole and about 7,200 square miles of the south pole.

“Our data are consistent with the presence of water ice in very low concentrations across a significant number of craters,” Feldman said.

Finding water on the moon could be a big boost for tentative plans to establish a permanent lunar base.

If water could be mined on the moon, it would ease the need of sending a supply from Earth. Water weighs eight pounds a gallon. It could take thousands of gallons to maintain a permanent moon complex.

The presence of water could also

“Our data are consistent with the presence of water ... across a significant number of craters.”

WILLIAM FELDMAN  
Energy Department researcher

enable astronauts to make their own breathing oxygen and to use the moon as sort of a space-based filling station. Water can be split into its chemical components, hydrogen and oxygen. Oxygen could be used for breathing, and the combination of hydrogen and oxygen can be used as a rocket fuel.

Lunar Prospector was launched in January and put into a 60-mile high orbit of the moon. The 4-foot-long, 650-pound spacecraft is NASA's first return to the moon since the last manned lunar landing mission, Apollo 17 in December 1972.

The robot craft carries instruments that can detect alpha particles, gamma rays and neutrons, along with a radar experiment. Data from the instruments, radioed to Earth, enable scientists to analyze the composition of the lunar surface and to pinpoint gravity and magnetic features.

The \$65 million spacecraft is expected to spend the rest of the year mapping the moon's surface. When it runs out of fuel, the craft will crash into the moon, so it would not become an orbiting hazard to future lunar missions.

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