

# Students faced with increasing costs

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## News Analysis

Each year, college students might have to sell a little more plasma and shop at a few more thrift stores in order to pay for their education.

UNL students might not have to make as many sacrifices as students at their peer institutions, but some still feel their money could be better spent.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln had the eighth most expensive tuition out of 11 peer institutions, fifth most expensive fees and 10th most expensive room and board expenses.

Full-time undergraduates from Nebraska paid an average of \$2,829 a year in tuition and fees this year.

According to the annual College Board report, tuition and fees at four-year, public institutions were about \$3,111 — a 5 percent increase from last year. UNL's tuition increased 4.67 percent in 1997-1998 and 3.1 percent in 1996-1997. Student fees increased 6.7 percent in 1997-1998.

The College Board report showed on-campus room and board increased \$194 to \$4,361 a year. UNL students paid \$3,865, which was a \$165 increase, to live in the residence halls in 1997-1998.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said tuition was driven by inflation, the Legislature and the cost of maintaining quality professors.

Right now, UNL is falling behind in the salary levels for professors among peer institutions, he said, which could be reflected in higher tuition increases for next year. The NU Board of Regents will set tuition for 1998-1999 in June.

Griesen said it was important to keep salary levels competitive with peer institutions to retain professors.

UNL students said they knew it was necessary for costs to increase,

but some wished the money was spent differently.

Kasey Herzberg, a junior biology major, said too much construction on campus created a distracting environment and thought Memorial Stadium construction was unnecessary. He also said the \$2-per-credit-hour technology fee could be used for better things such as free e-mail access for off-campus students.

Parking also is a constant frustration for students, Herzberg said. The new parking garage near Memorial Stadium is empty half the time because of the cost, he said. He suggested allowing students with green permits to park on some of the levels.

Herzberg said the biggest investment he would like to see at UNL would be hiring more faculty advisers, not just student advisers.

Tyler Shaw, a junior biology major, said the \$33 student fee increase per semester — \$20 for union renovations and \$13 for fees — was unfair because many juniors and seniors would not be here to enjoy the new union.

Shaw said any time the cost of college increased, students were going to complain. But at the same time, they knew it had to be done, he said.

Mike McQuistan, a junior math and philosophy major, said the rising cost of higher education was a "necessary evil."

"You need to keep up with that stuff," he said. "You never like to see anyone pay more, but I don't know what the alternative is."

McQuistan, who was on student government's Committee for Fees Allocation this year, said although he would not be here long after the renovated union opened, he was excited to see it.

"I think it will be worth the \$20,"

he said, referring to the extra cost students voted for to fund the renovation.

As for the rise in student fees, McQuistan said, decreased enrollment and budgets with increases higher than the inflation rate also added to the increase in student fees. Fee increases were \$207 per semester last year and will be \$240 this fall.

Kim Phelps, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance, said students pay for one-third of their education, and the state pays for the rest.

He said if faculty salaries

increased 3 percent, the state would fund two-thirds of the increase, and the university would raise tuition to cover the other third.

But Phelps said NU was not receiving as much money from the Legislature as it used to. For the fiscal year ending in June 1998, NU will have received \$342 million — a 3.2 percent increase from the Legislature. The university asked for \$350.7 million, a 5.5 percent increase.

"The share of state budget that has been directed toward higher edu-

cation has been reduced over the past 10 years," he said.

"Some items that have replaced it are the Department of Corrections, the state share of Medicaid reimbursements and quite a bit of state aid has gone to schools."

Regardless of the reasons, as a student at UNL Shaw said he just accepted the increases, but did not necessarily like them.

"Anytime you get an increase in price people will bitch about it," he said. "It is the way of the world."

## Basic costs of attendance

University	Room & Board	Tuition	Mandatory Fees	Total Basic Costs
University of Illinois	5066	3308	812	9188
University of Missouri	4528	3744	536	8808
University of Minnesota	4311	3976	474	8761
Purdue University	5216	2954	398	8568
Ohio State University	4797	3387	300	8484
Colorado State University	4668	2258	767	7693
University of Colorado	4566	2356	653	7575
University of Iowa	3825	2413	347	6585
University of Nebraska	3700	2355	494	6549
Iowa State University	3647	2318	448	6413
University of Kansas	3736	1965	420	6121

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