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Landscape Services impounding bikes

From staff reports

Students who park their bicycles and secure them to trees, posts, signs, stairwells or handicapped ramps may find their wheels gone when they return.

The Department of Landscape Services has been impounding bicycles because an increasing number of them are improperly stored.

Bikes attached to trees will first be served a warning. If they are not moved, they will be impounded. Bikes attached to hand railings or handicapped railings will be immediately impounded, according to university regulations.

"There is not a vast number of bikes in those conditions," University Police Sgt. Milo Bushing said.

He said most of the police's impounded bikes were brought from the residence halls at the end of last year.

Impounded bikes will be held at the University Police Department for 30 days, and if unclaimed they will be sold at public auction. There is no fine for getting a bike out of impound.

Daisy Brayton, a Landscape Services staff assistant, said workers are noticing more improperly stored bikes this semester than in the past, especially around residence halls.

Landscape Services recommends students register their bicycles.

The purpose of registration, which is free, is to discourage theft, aid in recovery and establish the bicycle's ownership.

Moeser: Lid would cause UNL damage

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But the amendment is calculated to increase state revenues in the first year off of an "artificially reduced rate" in the 1999-2000 fiscal year, Moeser said.

Dave Newall, the director of legislative policy for the state's department of revenue, said the passing last year of a legislative bill that cut sales tax by a half-cent for 1999-2000 would cause the state to take in about \$90 million less than it would have otherwise.

"That means there's less revenue to spend the year after," Newall said.

The move was made to reduce the cash reserve fund, he said. It was a way of returning tax money to the taxpayers. Income tax also has been cut, and in the last legislative session, that cut was extended permanently.

A long-term financing crisis already projected by NU also adds to the problems the university could face, Moeser said.

The university system is not getting enough from the state to accommodate its costs, Moeser said. So the university has been devising a plan to compensate for that.

But the added pressure from the amendment could cause the university to struggle.

"You add this on top of that, and we collapse," Moeser said. "We are under a very different environment."

Whole courses of study would be shut down, faculty and staff members would be released, there would be a reduction in services statewide, and what the university could do for

the student overall would decrease, Moeser said.

Tuition could rise as much as 22 percent, he said.

Tuition is not subject to the same cap on tax revenue other state-funded agencies are, said Michelle Waite, assistant to the chancellor for community relations.

Moeser said this is one way the amendment's writers protected the university.

"They've basically said the university is not at risk because of its ability to raise tuition," he said.

Moeser said he doesn't foresee the NU Board of Regents approving the increase, but he said that would be what is needed to make up for the money the university said will be lost.

And, such an increase in tuition would defeat the purpose of a land-grant university, Moeser said. That purpose is to provide an accessible and affordable education to everyone.

But, Moeser said, he doesn't believe the business group advocating the amendment is trying to hurt the university.

Waite said those promoting the amendment depend on the university system to provide knowledge. It is an important part of the state, she said.

The consequences caused by the proposed amendment are unintended, Moeser said.

"I don't think they set out to damage the university at all," he said.

"I don't think they realized when they wrote this they were actually inflicting great damage on the University of Nebraska."

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Fewer apply for refund of UNL student fees

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are not entitled to some services, Jablonski said.

But the system is not perfect, he said.

Jablonski said a loophole exists where a student could receive a refund, and still use services such as the Daily Nebraskan discount. He said part of the policy depended on students' honesty.

Refunds are not available for Fund B, which pays for services such as the University Health Center and Campus Recreation Center, Jablonski said.

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska Unions, said the refund policy has existed since 1980, when the NU Board of Regents approved it.

Swanson said in the early 1970s some students were upset because mandatory fees were being used to fund things they thought were objectionable.

Events leading up to the 1980

refund policy included two 1970s lawsuits against UNL concerning student-fee funded programs that offended some students.

Some students objected to their fees being used to help fund things such as a peace rally after a Vietnam War-related student strike, the ASUN purchase of a birth control handbook and an ASUN conference where Black Panther Bobby Seale was scheduled to speak.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the reasoning behind applying for a refund has shifted.

Jablonski said the most common reason students want their Fund A fees refunded is to have more money in their pockets.

Students also say they don't agree with mandatory fees, they don't use the services or they don't agree with the services, he said.

Refund applications can be picked up in the Student Organization Financial Services Office, Nebraska Union 222.

