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Asian crisis affects UNL

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permit to work off-campus was funded by international affairs for some students, said Sriprakash Mayasandra, International Affairs adviser for students and scholars.

Students are also being allowed to take as few as six credit hours - if they work more than 20 hours - and still be considered full time for immigration purposes, Mayasandra said.

But despite the university's efforts, Tan, who is a senior mechanical engineering major, said many Asian students still are struggling to make ends meet.

"The university was quite helpful in the first semester (of the crisis)," Tan said. "We still have the same problems now."

"I think the university expects us to come up with money, even though things haven't changed."

Hendrik Van Den Berg, associate professor of international economics, said Asian economies are still in trouble.

"It's probably gotten a little bit worse," he said. "Most of those economies have sunk a little further into recession."

Because less money is coming from home, Tan took an off-campus job last December because it paid more than his on-campus job and was related to his major.

"It's not supposed to be easy," he said. "I try to cope with work and I'm still OK."

Julian Tan Seng Hua, a UNL junior management major from Malaysia, quit school last semester

because he could not afford tuition.

"My family's business is still bad," he said. "They are trying to send me my tuition fees."

Hua did not work last spring because he was not a student. Hua is still not working because he is waiting to receive his student status again.

Levitov said the aid many UNL Asian students received last semester was unexpected. It is rare for a university to offer such generous support in response to a foreign crisis, he said.

"This was an extraordinary effort by the chancellor to allow most people to get through the semester," Levitov said.

"We have no idea what would have happened had they not gotten that money."

Levitov said the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in a rare move made concessions to allow students to apply for work permits.

Mayasandra said Asian students are not the only ones whose countries are struggling economically.

Some students from the former Soviet Union have been asking him about aid to offset their country's economic troubles, he said.

Mayasandra said the Association of International Educators has been lobbying the INS on behalf of such students, but no concessions have been made yet.

However, Mayasandra pointed out that that may be hard because UNL has more Asian students than Russian students.

Vladimir Oulianov, a UNL grad-

Asian student population drops

The economic crisis in Asia has lowered the number of graduate and undergraduate Asian students enrolling at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, particularly for Malaysian students. This year, the university is offering less help for those students to pay for their education.

Fall 1997 - 361 (Includes grad and undergrad)

Malaysia - 217
Indonesia - 28
Korea - 91
Philippines - 4
Thailand - 21

Fall 1998 - 322
Malaysia - 186
Indonesia - 23
Korea - 90
Philippines - 3
Thailand - 20

Total number of international students
Fall 1997 - 1300
Fall 1998 - 1259

uate student in business, said he felt uncomfortable with his economic situation.

Oulianov went back to his native Moscow several weeks ago to get his savings out of his bank.

"I could not get any funds from Russian banks; deposits are frozen," he said. "It is unclear if funds will be given back to people or not."

Like many Asian students have done, Oulianov is applying for an off-campus work permit. He is not working now.

"I cannot say I feel scared, but I feel very uncomfortable."

Health center undergoes face lift

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Staff writer

Walls, new carpet and blinds will be included in the renovation.

The University Health Center went under the knife at 8 a.m. Thursday for cosmetic surgery.

"Doctors" say the center should peel off its bandages in about two months with increased patient confidentiality.

"We are doing a little bit of a face lift," said Sara Bindrum, medical materials supervisor for the health center. "It was time for the center to receive a new look."

Originally built in the 1950s, the health center's last renovation took place in 1984 when an addition was built, Bindrum said. The university usually renovates buildings every 10 to 12 years, she said.

Health Center Director Linda Herrmann said the renovation includes three small construction projects, new carpet and new blinds.

"We have long awaited these improvements," she said.

Herrmann said the project will replace carpet in the basement and first floor lobbies, hallways and medical exam rooms. The first-floor windows will receive new blinds, she said.

A structural change within the basement will provide office space for staff members working with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "A Matter of Degree" program. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will receive a \$700,000 grant from the foundation and the American Medical Association to help UNL develop a plan to fight binge drinking.

New walls in the pharmacy and nurse triage center will create small rooms where staff members can talk in private with patients.

"Our home here pretty much needs to be replaced," Herrmann said. "The changes are happening because of general wear and tear."

Herrmann said the health center has received comments from students about the center's appearance in its suggestions box.

"One comment talked about the carpet up here in administration," Herrmann said. "That made us look at the whole health center and consider renovating."

Herrmann said no renovations will take place on the second floor. This includes administrative, laboratory and Counseling and Psychology Services, she said.

"We are primarily focused on public areas," Herrmann said. "These are the areas that get used."

Herrmann said the remodeling project is being completely funded by health center savings.

The 2 percent Fund B budget cuts announced by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen earlier this month will not affect the project, she said.

To deal with the budget cut, the health center is looking at budget allocations within its departments, not raising the price of medical services.

"It's going to hurt," Herrmann said. "But the health center will feel the pain, not the students."

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