

# UNL tuition rate rises 5.4 percent

## Number higher than the average

BY KIMBERLY SWEET  
Senior staff writer

UNL's tuition increase was 2 percent higher than the national average of public four-year universities this year, which may put a crunch on some students struggling to pay for college.

According to a study released last week by The College Board, college tuition and fees at public and private universities across the nation rose less than 5 percent this year.

Tuition rose 5.4 percent at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In-state tuition on a per-credit-hour basis rose from \$82.75 to \$87.25.

While average tuition at private schools rose 4.6 percent, in-state tuition at public four-year schools rose nationwide 3.4 percent.

Tuition increased 5.6 percent for non-residents and 5.5 percent for graduate students at UNL.

Mark Fischer, a sophomore psychology major, said he has felt the sting of the 5.4 percent increase this year.

Fischer wasn't aware of the increase when he started the school year.

"I didn't know there was an increase until I got my bill," he said.

Working over the summer, Fischer tried to plan how much he needed to save based on last year's tuition rate. Now, he has taken out more loans and gotten a job that pays more per hour to cover the extra \$500 added onto his bill this year.

While the better-paying job helps, it doesn't make it easy, Fischer said.

"It's still tough," said Fischer, who juggles work along with being a member of the Cornhusker Marching Band.

A large portion of the increase in tuition was to cover university operating costs, said Dara Troutman, vice president of external communication at UNL.

One and a half percent of the tuition hike was because of a 1997-98 legislative bill that funded deferred maintenance projects on the University of Nebraska campuses.

The rest of the hike was needed to cover additional operating costs the university faces that the Legislature didn't fund.

Last May, the Legislature allocated only enough money to fund faculty salary increases for the next two years.

In order to cover additional operating costs, tuition had to be utilized, Troutman said.

“There are increased costs as well as changing expectations on the part of college students.”

CRAIG MUNIER  
director of Scholarships and Financial Aid

While current figures aren't available for the 1999-2000 school year, Craig Munier, director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, expects the number of students taking out loans to increase, in part because of the tuition increase.

The number of students borrowing has increased steadily since 1994.

The percentage of graduates taking out loans in 1999 increased 0.6 percent over the year before.

The increase in the number of students who take out loans reflect the increase in tuition as well as the increased standards students expect to live by, Munier said.

"There are increased costs as well as changing expectations on the part of college students," Munier said. "There may be a different expectation on what's minimally acceptable to live on."

Statistics on the average default rate on government student loans also came out last week.

The national rate fell from 9.6 percent to 8.8 percent in fiscal 1997. The default rate at UNL was 7.4 percent.

While the default rate was lower than the national average, it increased from 4.7 percent in fiscal 1996, Munier said.

Munier said he is unable to explain the increase but said UNL's peers experienced the same phenomenon.

"We're not very worried," Munier said.

"University of Nebraska students have an outstanding record of paying back loans."

Those who don't pay back their loans usually don't because of unemployment or underemployment.

With the upturn in the economy, Munier said he expected the default rate to go down.

"We don't know what to make of it," Munier said. "It could be in another year it will go down."

# Group: Watch for unsponsored booths

BY JOHN HEJKAL  
Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association was warned about possible illegal activities on campus during its weekly meeting Sunday night in the Nebraska Union.

Tom Dake, assistant director of Student Involvement, warned RHA that credit card booths set up in areas other than the plaza north of the Nebraska Union may not be sanctioned by Student Involvement.

"If these credit card booths are

being set up outside these areas, they are probably not being represented by a student group," he said.

He also said any booth without at least one student staffing it probably is not being sponsored by a student group. Dake recommended calling campus police if a student suspects illegitimate activity.

RHA also passed its fall semester budget bill. The budget totaled \$15,640, with major allotments going to the semi-formal dance and copier services.

Jadd Stevens, RHA president, emphasized the importance of taking



the budget process seriously. "Since it's residents' money it's important that it is handled with procedure," Stevens said. "No one likes to see student fees wasted."

Chuck Rensink, RHA faculty advisor, addressed the senators about the significance of their actions.

"You are representing people. You are dealing with residents' money. It is very important that you take your job seriously," he said.

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**Cross Cultural Communication Social Group**

Thursdays, Sept. 9 & 23, Oct. 7 & 21, Nov. 4 & 18, Dec. 2

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St.  
Call Luis at 472-7513 or 472-7450

**Sister Circle: African American Women's Discussion Group**  
Weekly on Mondays, beginning Aug. 30  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Women's Center, Nebraska Union 338  
Call Tolandra at 472-2597



UNL is a nondiscriminatory institution.

**Gay Men's Discussion Group**

Weekly on Wednesdays  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Call Luis at 472-7450

**Grief Support Group**

Weekly on Tuesdays beginning Sept. 7  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St.  
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