

## Money talks

### University improvement depends on quality faculty

Come next spring, the state Legislature will face some tough choices when it comes to appropriating money to the University of Nebraska — a task it takes on every two years.

Once again, the list of needs requiring funding during the next two years would reach far into the state's pockets.

The four campuses have requested increased funding for research, extended and distance education, scholarships, student recruitment and continued funding of building improvements.

But the need that would cost the state the most is a 4.6 percent increase in faculty and administrative salaries and a 4.75 percent increase for professional and managerial positions.

Regent Charles Wilson vocalized his support for the increases. He suggested raising the target for salaries — which has traditionally been at the midpoint of NU's peer institutions.

NU President Dennis Smith said he welcomed a conversation on consequences of doing that.

We endorse aiming higher in the salaries administrators, faculty and staff receive.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's being able to recruit nationally-renowned professors is crucial to helping it reach its vision of becoming one of the top 75 research universities in the nation.

Recruiting high-caliber professors is dependent on offering competitive salaries. Salaries are key to making happy faculty and staff.

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A top-notch faculty will bring bigger research grants, higher academic standards and possibly, more students.

Of course, mandating higher salaries could cause other needs to go unfunded. The consequence could be another reallocation. It's a consequence we will have to deal with to get top-caliber professors on our campus.

We can't have our cake and eat it, too.

Regardless, the regents and senators will have to tread carefully when determining which needs should be funded.

The two entities also need to take into consideration the other factors that current and potential employees take into consideration when determining whether the University of Nebraska is a good, welcoming place to work.

Some of us think domestic partner benefits is one way the university can increase faculty morale without significantly increasing the financial burdens on the state.

Adopting benefits would send a sign that the university cares about providing an equitable work place.

Many steps in the budget process exist before the university will present its final request to the Legislature next year.

We hope the word reallocation doesn't come up again.

But if it does, we have to look at our priorities.

#### Editorial Board

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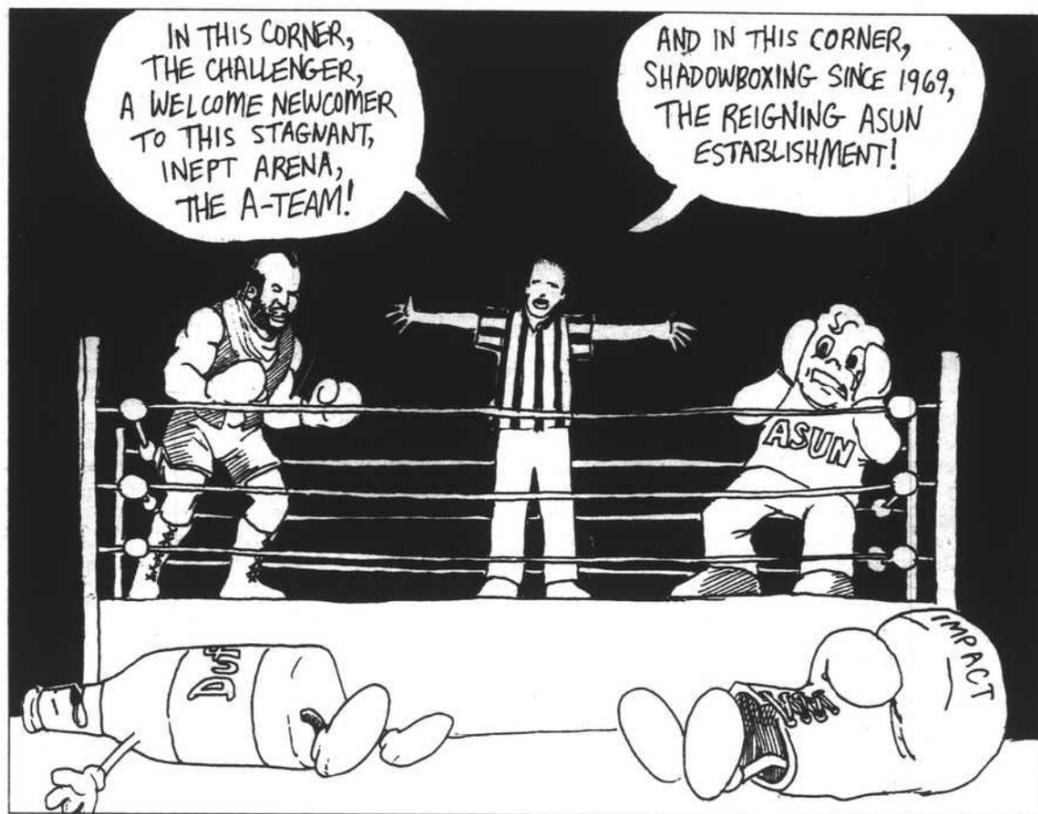
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Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

#### Editorial Policy

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## Obermeyer's VIEW



## Letters to the EDITOR

### Respectful discourse

The Feb. 23 DN editorial on fetal cell research unfortunately contributes to the unparalleled misrepresentation of the facts regarding this issue. With a highly political and emotional issue such as this, involving complex scientific and ethical questions, it is imperative that respectful discourse on both sides of the issue be based on facts. Let me start by correcting some of the misrepresentations in the editorial:

■ UNMC has never used -- and will never use -- fetal brain cells from partial-birth abortions.

■ No one was "forced" to request information from UNMC under the provision of the Freedom of Information Act.

■ LB1417, not LB1427, asks both medical schools in Nebraska to report all of their research involving human subjects. UNMC readily agreed to work with the Legislature in developing an appropriate reporting mechanism and has not expressed opposition to the intent of this bill.

UNMC never tried to "hide" this research from the public. The results of this research have been published in more than 60 articles in national publications. Yes, in hindsight, UNMC could have fostered more public discussion. We did not send out announcements or news releases. We have learned from this and will be more vigilant in this area in the future.

Finally, we want to enlist the assistance of various media and religious organizations in promoting a public discourse on the value and ethics of emerging sciences such as genomics and biomedical technology. We would encourage everyone to visit our Web site, [www.unmc.edu](http://www.unmc.edu), in order to receive more factual information on this issue.

Bob Bartee  
executive assistant to the  
chancellor

### Non-honors nobodies

In the article "Another honors dorm considered," James Griesen states that the construction of a new hall is "necessary to meet students' housing demands." Is this basically saying that we need to suck up to a bunch of smart kids so the University can go up a few points in the national rankings? How about focusing on the majority of students who aren't in the Honors Program?

This university stresses equality for everyone and attempts to bring the student population as a whole closer together. How is singling out honors students and giving them more benefits than the average student fair?

Instead of bringing everyone closer together, it widens the gap even further. Although we aren't honors students, we are still students who have every right to the benefits the university has to offer. Where will this suite-style residence hall be placed? North of Cather "in a space occupied by a small parking lot and basketball courts." Once again, this is ignoring what the majority of students care about — parking.

We don't even live on campus any more. We're just trying to gain the equality the university is striving so hard to achieve for those who are going to be here in the future.

Tina Gustin  
junior  
elementary and special education

Lori J. Flahive  
junior  
international affairs

### Soliciting salvation?

A man who has been visiting the residence halls on the UNL campus since 1961 has been booted out. Why, you may be asking yourself? Simple

reason: He goes around the halls and gives presentations, presentations that challenge people to think about religion, life after death and consequences of behavior. He has been booted out because he happens to believe that Jesus Christ is the answer. UNL says it booted him out because he is a solicitor.

This man's name is Dean Hatfield. Since 1961, he has been preaching his message. Dean has never asked for money or attempted to sell anything. He has asked students willing to listen to think about their beliefs. This, my fellow students, is censorship.

There are many who don't agree with his message, but that doesn't matter — this is a public university. Please, let this man deliver his message, with the freedom our nation guarantees.

Travis Bourret  
sophomore  
biology

### Mickey Mouse U

I think I've found out why NU is always listed as a third-tier university.

I talked to a friend who had her senior check done last August. Her advisor noted that she would be able to graduate in May. She just found out that her advisor made an error in what elective to take, so she gets to come back next semester for one class. Oops.

Another friend was denied admission into the English teachers college. She has a 3.9 GPA, a distinguished list of extracurricular activities and awards and she practically aced the entrance test. Dean says: No soup for you.

Maybe UNL won't be labeled a Mickey Mouse institution if we actually hire professors and advisors who get the job done in a professional manner.

Jeff Hemje  
junior  
electrical engineering

## P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.