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Regents vote to raise pay, measure sent to lawmakers

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

In terms of faculty salaries, if it takes two to tango, then the Board of Regents have asked Gov. Mike Johanns for his hand in the next dance.

The board voted 6-2 to approve their biennial budget last Saturday, which included raises of more than 5 percent for NU faculty and administrators for 2001-02 and 2002-03.

The budget proposal will be sent to the Legislature where the fate of the increased faculty salaries lie in the hands of the senators and Johanns.

The board requested about an eight percent increase in aid from the state government. Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons, who voted against the proposal, said he expects to receive half of that.

Hassebrook said he was concerned because the board cut a proposed \$500,000 from the budget for need-based financial aid.

The board also passed a resolution, introduced by Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln, that states a commitment to raise faculty salaries above the midpoint of the university's peers.

Talk of bringing NU to the midpoint of its peers has been fueled by President Dennis Smith's report that in terms of state aid and tuition, the university receives \$50 million less than comparable schools.

Hassebrook opposed the resolution because he said bringing

Need-based aid approved for all state public colleges

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

Members of the Board of Regents decided last Saturday that students receiving need-based financial aid should have the opportunity to apply it at any of Nebraska's public colleges.

The regents passed an amendment that eliminates a \$500,000 request for need-based aid from the budget proposal to the Legislature.

The board agreed to work with the Council of Public Higher Education on requesting and distributing the financial aid.

Regent Don Blank of McCook proposed the amendment because he said he felt students receiving need-based aid should have the option to apply it to community colleges, state

"I think it's snobbish to say you can't get a quality education from somewhere other than (UNL)."

Don Blank
UNL regent, McCook

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faculty salaries above the midpoint could cause tuition rates to skyrocket.

"What the board said, in my judgment, is that we want to have quality education for the elite," he said.

In Hassebrook's eyes, the board needs to look at ways other than tuition and state aid to fund increased faculty salaries.

He suggested more reallocation of funds within the university and the recruitment of more out-of-state students as alternatives.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Regent Joel Schafer supported Wilson's resolution and said he was happy with the board's decision.

"I think this is the way we should approach things," he said.

"A specific need was addressed directly."

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