

The Northernner

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Northern Kentucky University

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Budget pinch freezes vacant staff positions

by Tom Groeschen
Northernner News Editor

NKU is one of eight public universities which have been asked by Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown to trim their budget requests, and President A.D. Albright says he is "sympathetic" with Brown's aims to reduce state employment.

The university presidents met last Wednesday, February 6, with Harry Snyder, executive director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education (CHE). Albright said this week that

there was a mutual agreement to seek more efficient ways of spending public funds.

"We are now going to scrutinize our own expenditure patterns, and then get back to the Council on Higher Education," explained Albright. "The idea is to formulate more specific responses to the governor's requests."

Snyder wrote a letter to Brown following the meeting which detailed the initial response of the higher education community.

The higher education community has already taken several measures to meet

budget requests, the letter said, including "program reductions, energy conservation programs, innovative salary plans at our medical centers and numerous other management decisions."

The letter added, "But we do not want--nor do we intend--to stop with our past achievements. Our institutions are committed to doing more if at all reasonably possible."

Albright said there had been a five percent staff reduction at Northern prior to the governor's requests. In addition, NKU is not filling empty staff positions

at this time.

"We have put a freeze on all vacant positions," said Albright, who noted that the freeze included all faculty, staff and administrative positions.

A re-examination of expenses such as travel, telephone and printing will be studied as the university seeks maximum efficient management of its resources, Albright said.

"Further sophistication and refinement [of the budget] is in our opinion essential to the resolution of the problems which higher education will face during the next two decades," Snyder said in writing to Brown. "We appreciate the recognition you have accorded our distinct budgeting procedures."

Brown has said that his highest education priority is "to increase the salary levels of our most valuable resources, our university faculty and staff."

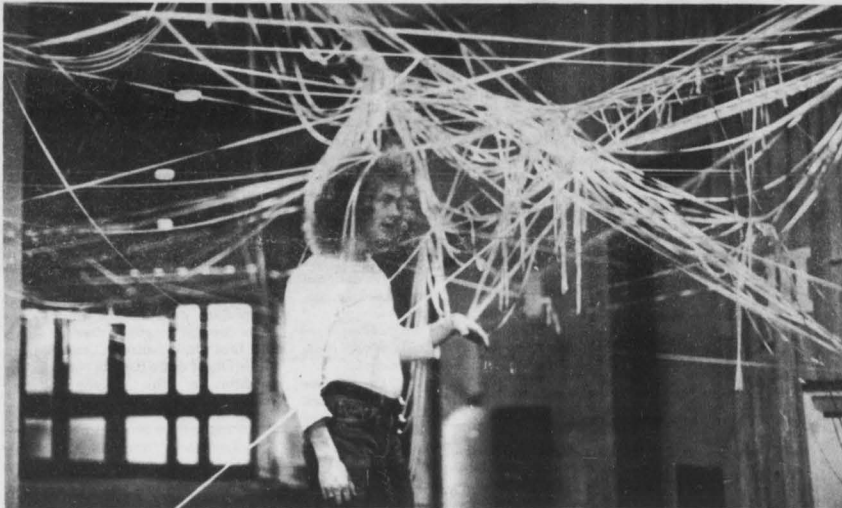
Snyder noted that Brown's attention to university faculty and staff salaries is "welcome news at our institutions."

Albright is seeking new money for program improvements, as well as parity for NKU faculty salaries as compared to other regional schools.

For now, the university presidents have all gone back to their respective institutions to re-evaluate their budgets. Snyder said via his letter to Brown that "a more detailed chronicle" of budgetary needs at each school should be available in a couple of weeks.

Albright estimated that the presidents would return to the Council on Higher Education sometime in March with their proposals.

"We accept governor Brown's goals, and will work to meet them in the most efficient way we can," remarked Albright. "We'll have to take a look at our budget requests and then get back to Snyder."



"Oh, what a tangled web we weave..."

Post-graduate art student John Neek found himself caught up in his own creation on the fourth floor Fine Arts Center late Wednesday afternoon. Neek and other art students left no corner of the hallway, lockers and elevator included, untouched by their maze of elastic strings. (Bill Gollar, photo)

Faculty committee votes Grube no contract

by Rich Boehne
Northernner Reporter

The faculty tenure board of the physical sciences department voted last week to terminate the contract of physics instructor Geraldine Grube, as of May 15, 1980, according to James Niewahner, acting director of the physical sciences department.

Notice of the terminated contract was served to Grube in two letters last Friday by Niewahner and Vernon Hicks, chairman of the tenure committee, according to Grube.

"The apparent reason was my performance as a teacher," said Grube,

who declined further comment on the matter at this time.

According to a student spokesperson in the physics department, Grube was apparently fired because of poor student evaluations last semester.

Having changed her teaching methods, the students now like Grube and are circulating petitions of support for her, the student said.

"It seems anytime we get somebody who is interested in physics they either quit or are fired," the student spokesperson claimed.

"One student mentioned he was

going to get a petition up," Niewahner said. "Obviously that would have to be looked at and considered."

"I can't comment on that," replied Niewahner when asked why the committee had recommended that Grube's contract be terminated.

According to Niewahner, the other members of the committee include Dr. Michael McPherson, associate professor of physical science; Dr. Vinay Kumar, associate professor of physical science; Dr. Raman Singh, assistant professor of physical science; Dr. Jonathan Bushee, associate professor of physical science;

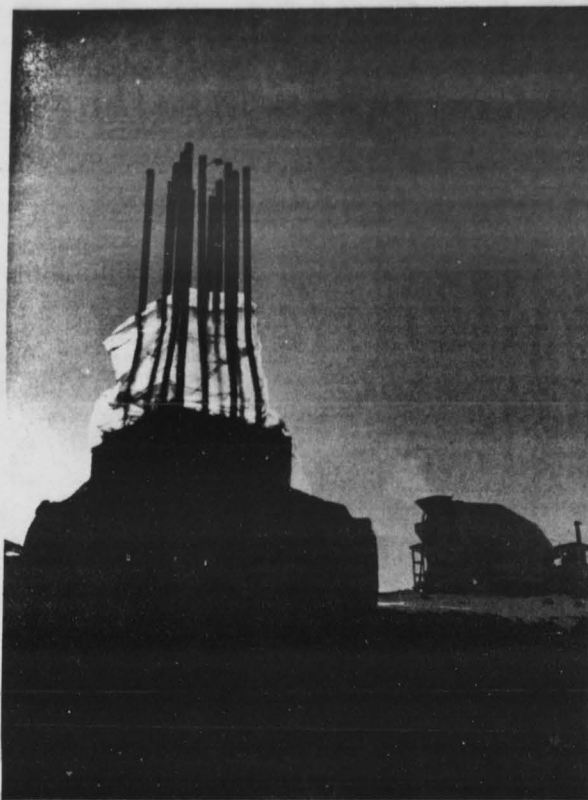
and Dr. Vernon Hicks, associate professor of physical science;—"all tenured faculty."

Hicks declined comment on the reasons for the recommendation, but added that an appeal of the decision is possible.

McPherson also did not wish to detail the discussions of the committee.

A student in one of Grube's classes this semester said, "Grube is in my opinion a good instructor. I signed the petition yesterday."

Grube has also contributed to *The Northernner* as a guest columnist during the Fall 1979 semester.



Nowhere to go but up

With the foundation nearly completed, construction workers have only eight stories to go on the Administration Center currently under construction behind the University Center. The Center is scheduled for completion by June 1981. (Steven Schewene, photo)

Provost candidate elicits faculty input

Provost candidate Dr. James Pogue, current provost at the University of Missouri-Rolla, told faculty members Wednesday afternoon that they "play a relatively large role" in decisions that effect them and their students.

Pogue, the second person to be interviewed for the position, said, "There is no one better qualified in curriculum than faculty," and that faculty members should have a major role in promotion-tenure decisions in their departments.

In response to a question about whether or not specific reasons should be given by committee members who vote to turn down tenure requests, Pogue described himself as "somewhere between rules and regulations and ethics."

"If at some point that person is terminated, someone should sit down with that person and tell them. I suppose that will may be the provost's job," he explained.

Northern's policy on promotion-tenure decisions required specific reasons to be given in the event a person is refused tenure.

Pogue said student input was also important in promotion-tenure decisions, but pointed out that "their perspective may be limited."

"Students exist at the university for four years; a lot goes on both before and after that," he explained.

Pogue suggested that university alumni are a good source of evaluation of former instructors because of experience and a broadened perspective.

But, Pogue said, "Promotion-tenure recommendations should include some statement of student evaluation."

When asked by one faculty member to describe strengths and weaknesses,

Pogue responded, "I'm interested and I've been fairly successful when working with people. I am willing to talk things out before taking any action. I see no special drawbacks, nothing to hold me back."

Pogue admitted to no experience with non-traditional or re-entry students, who make up over one-third of Northern's student body, but said he sees the faculty role as "the same as at any other university, including decisions in curriculum, programming and university mission."

Pogue received his doctorate in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and prior to his current position served as Interim Chancellor, Dean of Faculties, Director of the Division of Liberal Arts, Chairman of the department of Humanities and professor of English at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Additional candidates' visits are scheduled as follows: Dr. Julius Greenstein, Dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Science, Shippensburg State College, Penn. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 19 and 20; Dr. Henry Mitchell, Associate Provost at the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25 and '26; and Dr. Lyle Gray, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Northern Kentucky University on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 28 and 29.

A schedule of meeting places and times and a complete vita of each candidate are available at the curriculum desk of the library, the literature and language department on the first floor Landrum, the Student Government office (UC 206) or from any member of the provost search committee.

News Capsule

Library two cent copier expected by spring

A two cent copy machine should be available in the library sometime near spring break, according to Brian Humphress, SG Representative-At-Large.

"Several people came to us with the idea last year," explained Humphress. "We did surveys and found that students were in favor of a cheaper price for copying needed materials, especially library documents which cannot be checked out."

Currently, copying is available in the library for five cents per copy, and in Student Services office, UC 230, for two cents per copy. The new copy machine will be located on the third floor of the library.

The money for the machine was allocated by the University Center Board. "Instead of Student Services running it, library personnel will actually be in charge of the copier," said Humphress. "They will do this through the business office."

In other action, a Student Government Association of Kentucky (SGAK) proposal to have a student sit on the Council of Higher Education appears

likely to pass the Kentucky Senate this spring, according to Humphress.

Humphress said this week that there are enough votes in a Senate committee to virtually insure passage of the bill by the whole Senate. The proposal would then have to clear the House of Representatives.

SGAK representatives have been lobbying for the bill in Frankfort in past weeks. The proposal would most likely see a student sit on the CHE as a non-voting member, in the event it is okayed by both houses of the Legislature.

Representatives-at-large Brian Humphress, Steve Humphress, Irene Norton, and Arts and Sciences cluster representative Greg Steffen, have represented NKU as lobbyists in Frankfort.

Also, said Brian Humphress, there is a bill in committee at the legislature which eventually may lead to beer allowed on campus.

"There is a state law which says a person cannot be intoxicated in a public place," said Humphress. "The way I

understand it, there is a proposed bill which would repeal this law. This might be the first step toward having beer on campus."

Humphress added that he still wanted to take a look at some specifics of the proposal during the NKU lobbyists' next trip to the capitol. At this point, representatives from NKU and the University of Kentucky have been doing most of SGAK's lobbying.

DPS sgt. chosen

After numerous tests, Barry Montgomery has been chosen as the new DPS sergeant, according to Captain Harold Smith.

Montgomery, Department of Public Safety employee since September, is filling the position vacated by Hal Davis, who resigned last fall to join the Campbell County Police force.

According to Smith, "Montgomery was in the final running with at least five other applicants." He would not comment on who the other final applicants were.

Northerner seeks bus. manager

The Northerner is accepting applications for a Business Manager to complete the term vacated by the resignation of John Dierig.

The position offers a salary and commission, and the successful applicant may re-apply for the position for the 1980-81 year. Notice for those available positions will be in The Northerner Friday, February 21.

Dierig, an accounting major, has resigned to take a full-time job in the computer center on campus.

Mel Webster calls the shots for Norsewomen

By Sally Swauger
Nortner Sports Reporter

He has been called everything from "a character" to "a ham," described as being "crazy" and even said to be "a little goofy." But, when Mel Webster talks, people listen (and he's no relation to E.F. Hutton either).

Webster, in case you haven't heard, is the announcer for NKU's women's basketball games. While he may not be Northern's answer to Cawood Ledford, he's probably one of the greatest supporters the Norsewomen ever had.

"He's something," stated Jennifer Lyons, team captain. "Right now he's really doing a lot to help us raise money to go to Europe."

A native of Covington and a graduate of NKU, Webster began public address announcing during his high school days at Holmes doing freshman and varsity games until a teacher took over the position.

His misfortune, however, was a stroke of luck for the Norsewomen, who at the time were in desperate need of additional assistance.

"I called Marilyn (Moore) and asked her if she wanted me to do her games," he explained. "When I got there, I found out there wasn't anyone to help out with other things, so I began keeping stats and the scorebook and traveling on the road, besides announcing."

From there, Webster's part-time broadcasting "career" took a turn for the better. He was asked to do the AIAW Collegiate Regionals, the East-West High School All-Star Game, and district and regional high school tournaments. More importantly, it led him into more "volunteer" jobs at the university.

In 1976, he served as Acting Sports Information Director and in 1977 shared the title of Co-Sports Information

Director with Dale McMillan, a position which eventually evolved into a full-time job.

"Working in news, I have the freedom to do other things," he said. His full-time occupation is editor of Northern Kentucky Sports and co-editor of Sports Light, as well as "some freelance stuff on the side."

Why then, you might logically ask yourself, does he continue to do all this 'freebie' work?

Apparently much of it stems from his feelings toward the Norsewomen's coaches, Marilyn Moore and Dan Henry, and the girls themselves.

I have a great deal of respect for Marilyn and Danny. I haven't found any two finer people," Webster strongly contends. "I just can't say enough about them or the team. It's made up of totally ideal individuals."

Although Webster was asked to announce the University of Cincinnati's men's basketball games, he flatly refused "because they conflicted with Marilyn's games."

"So what if I'd be in front of 17,000 people, it wouldn't be as much fun," he replied. "People might say I'm crazy but I believe in Northern Kentucky."

Webster's strong convictions in that last comment are apparent, not only by the contribution he has made to Northern's athletic program, but to Northern Kentucky high school athletics as well.

"I always say there's only two types of people in the world; those who live in Northern Kentucky and those who wish they did," he contended.

Although it seems that Webster could not be any happier than to be associated with what he calls the Norsewomen's "first-class total operation," he does have one regret. "I enjoy the p.a.," he admitted, "but I'd really like to be Snoopy."



Melvin Webster, NKU's women's basketball announcer, rests comfortably in a chair behind his microphone during a recent game in Regents Hall. (Steve Schewene, photo)

JOCK SHORTS

Women want a soccer club

Women who are interested in starting a soccer team at NKU are invited to attend an organizational meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, in the Regents Hall Lobby.

Those who are unable to attend the meeting should contact Stacy Patterson at 441-4111 or Robin Bonaventura in the Campus Recreation, 292-5197.

Softball tryouts to begin

Coach Jane Scheper will hold women's softball tryouts on Wednesday, February 20, from 5-7 p.m. in Regents Hall.

Anyone interested in playing for last season's collegiate state champions

should come to the practice "ready to play" with a glove and tennis shoes, according to Scheper.

Hoffy lost for season?

Mike Hofmeyer, a junior starter on the basketball team, may be out for the season with a severely sprained ankle, according to coach Mote Hils. The 6'5" forward injured the ankle in a game against Alabama St. on Monday, February 11.

"Up until this year Hofmeyer had never played in a game at Northern with even one piece of tape on his body," said NKU trainer Mike Daley. "Already this season he's broken a finger, hyper-extended his elbow and sprained his ankle."

Sports Scoreboard

Men's Basketball

Feb. 9 at Kentucky St. 73-87

Feb. 11 Alabama St. 62-71

Feb. 13 Bellarmine

Record: 8-14

Women's Basketball

Feb. 1 Illinois 82-78

Feb. 4 at Bellarmine 82-60

Feb. 12 at Kentucky 61-62

Record: 16-11

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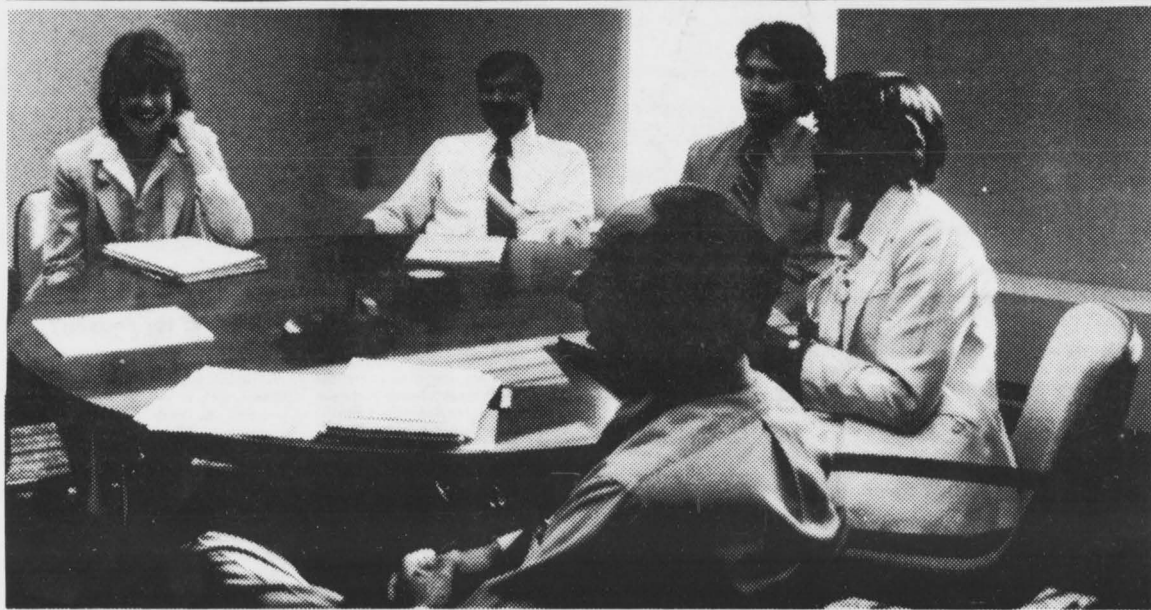
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