Let your voice be heard

By Julie Hagermeier
UAAD President

There always will be decisions made by a higher authority by virtue of one’s position in an organization or through an election process that will not meet with your idea of what should actually happen. Throughout our lives we will be faced with living under the parameters of those decisions whether we like it or not. The problem we are facing now with the budget crisis is a case in point. I’m sure we don’t like that Gov. Johanns would like to see a 10 percent reduction in the university budget. Even though the Appropriations Committee is now leaning towards a three percent cut instead of the six percent they originally intended to take to the floor, there are many who agree that any amount is too much.

Chancellor Perlman must make proposals for reductions based on what both Gov. Johanns and the Appropriations Committee say he must do. There are many who don’t like his proposals either. So, what can be done? We know that some kind of cut is inevitable, because we know that the citizens of the state of Nebraska will not tolerate a university that doesn’t accept its portion of the budget situation. How the university goes about deciding how those cuts are made provides each of us with the opportunity for our voices to be heard.

The more cynical among us will say that because we are staff no one will listen. I don’t believe that is true. Chancellor Perlman’s Listening Sessions invite everyone to make their feelings known. UAAD members and guests also have an opportunity to Chat With the Chancellor from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, April 18, at the East Union. Attend! Let Chancellor Perlman know what you are thinking. The Chancellor has said he will make an announcement on the next part of the cuts April 16, so with that knowledge we must charge ourselves with the responsibility of making our opinions heard and making them count.

The Academic Planning Committee has asked for our input. Whether or not you believe they will take your opinions to heart, you still should respond to my recent e-mail so your voice can be at least heard!

Take every opportunity you have, including those that are external to make your opinion count. We are in the midst of a city election. Your vote counts. Although there is not a race that directly affects the University, such as a Legislator, Governor, or Regent, we must show the community of Lincoln that University employees are not transient, as we sometimes are accused of being.

We are also in the midst of UAAD elections for 2003-2004. Please vote! Equally important is volunteering for UAAD and U-Wide committees.

Through election, through listening sessions, through e-mail, by any means you can, let your voice be heard.
President Julie Hagemeier called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February general membership meeting were approved as written.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President, Julie Hagemeier – Julie encouraged UAAD members to attend the upcoming Academic Planning Committee meetings on the budget cuts, adding she had asked the APC to consider including one office/service and one managerial/professional employee in their meetings so staff could be represented. The APC did not respond to this request.

UAAD members have been invited to nominate alumni for Master’s Week. See your chair or director for nomination information.

Julie went over in detail some of the comments she made at the APC meeting she attended, including her asking the APC to remember the importance of staff to the success of the University and voicing support for vertical rather than horizontal cuts, which reduce all to mediocrity. She urged UAAD members to speak out against disproportionate cuts of managerial/professionals.

Julie also announced the Chancellor’s Budget Reduction Assistance Fund, which has been formed to help employees who will be RIF’d due to budget cuts. UAAD needs a representative to serve the committee that will administer this fund. Please let Julie know if you are interested.

The date with the Chat with the Chancellor has been changed to April 18 at noon at the East Campus Union. UAAD members were also encouraged to attend the scheduled talk-backs with the Chancellor regarding budget cuts.

There will be an Extended Education Open House April 25 at the City Campus Union.

Julie recognized guests Mary Ann Solomas, Alan Moeller, Chris Carey, Erin Sayer and Julie Nearman.

Vice President, Randy Leach – Randy reported that the Academic Senate passed resolutions to support tenured faculty and explore alternatives to faculty RIFs.

Treasurer, Joanna Rogers – The balances in the accounts are as follows: Foundation - $1,565, Checking - $3,455.53 and Bursar - $267.03, for total assets of $4,753.50. The total expenses for Founders’ Day were $419.44.

Employee Liaison Committee, Dave Morgan and Kathy Notter – The Domestic Partners Benefits Panel is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City Campus Union. If you have questions for the panel, they can be submitted via the Employee Liaison listserv or at the panel discussion. Also, the Employee Liaison Committee has been discussing asking that the bottom levels of the garage be designated for commuters only.

Nominating Committee, Marilyn Fenton, Mary LaGrange and Anne Mulligan – Marilyn encouraged everyone to complete their interest inventory and make nominations for next year’s officers.

Membership Committee, Anne Mulligan – Erin Sayer and Ann Kopera won the UAAD Challenge Contest that awards a prize at each meeting to potential new members and the person who brought the guest/member.

Professional Development Committee, Tish Roland – Tish said to watch your e-mail for an announcement of the next seminar.

Publicity/PR Committee, Julie for Constance Walter – The resolution that was mentioned in the last Update was on budget cuts, not domestic partner benefits.

Historian, Duane Mohlman – Duane discussed the resolution regarding budget cuts that he drafted and the executive board signed and submitted.

Program Committee, Rick Haugerud – Rick reminded everyone that next month’s meeting is at Othmer Hall and then introduced Curt Bromm, Speaker of the Unicameral.

Bromm, who said his purpose as speaker is to try to help each senator have an opportunity to sell the legislature on what they think is best for the state, not to try to pass legislation or put up roadblocks, detailed his election as speaker and some of the challenges before the legislature since then. Citing their importance as the strength of the system, Bromm explained the thirteen standing committees in the legislature. He also went over the mechanics of sessions, special sessions and closure votes, giving insight to how the Unicameral works.

On the subject of the budget, Bromm explained that there are “difficult decisions to make,” adding that senators are trying to foster cooperation between the legislature and the governor on how to solve the budget shortfall. “The committee work is very much in progress,” he said.

After giving details of last year’s override of the governor’s veto by the “dirty thirty,” Bromm praised Nebraska’s system saying it’s not perfect but is better than a two house, partisan system. He then opened the floor for questions from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Fenton, UAAD Secretary
Welcome new members

Cory Goesch, IANR Communications & Information Technology.

New Employee Orientation

Human Resources recently revamped and improved the New Employee Orientation program. The purpose is to provide a warm and enthusiastic welcome to new employees; share information on services, benefits and programs; and help employees understand that everyone contributes to making UNL a quality place to work and learn. Research also indicates that an NEO program reduces employee turnover and helps employees reach full productivity faster than those organizations without an introduction.

The goal is to have new employees attend a session during their first 30 days of employment. The sessions take place on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. The dates are:

- April 17
- May 15
- June 19
- July 17
- Aug. 14
- Sep. 18
- Oct. 16

All sessions are at the Nebraska Union, City Campus. Employees attending New Employee Orientation may park at the 17 and R streets parking garage. Employees may use a temporary parking permit. Free shuttles will take them from the garage to the Union at 14 and R streets. Employees may bring their own snacks and beverages.

To make a reservation, arrange for accommodation assistance, or for information, contact Nanda Ramanathan, Department of Human Resources, 472-3106 or 472-3101, or email rramanat@unlnotes.unl.edu. Employees also may refer to the online information at http://busfin.unl.edu/hr/neo.htm.

UAAD Monthly Treasurer’s Report

Joanna Rogers, Treasurer
Current Account Balances — 4/01/03

University of Nebraska Foundation - Cash Balance Activity
Beginning Balance 1565.00
Gifts 15.00
Ending Balance 1580.00

First Bank - Demand Deposit Account
Beginning Balance 3,336.83
Dues Deposited 10.00
Founder's Day Luncheon 316.00
Interest Earned .25
Founder's Day Expenses -207.30
Ending Balance 3,455.78

Bursar Account
Beginning Balance 370.84
Oldt Reimbursement 250.00
Prof. Development Training -102.70
Founder’s Day Luncheon -528.14
Postage -7.03
Ending Balance (17.03)

Total Assets:
Foundation 1,580.00
First Bank 3,455.78
Bursar Account (17.03)
Total 5,018.75

UAAD Executive Board

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Mary LaGrange
Member at Large
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UAAD is sponsoring a contest to help broaden our membership base. Are you up to the challenge? It is simple and will pay off to the winners.

When you bring a guest or new member to the February, March, April or May meeting you will be entered into a drawing for cool prizes. Encourage your co-workers to attend a meeting and join this organization. Remind your co-workers that UAAD is frequently called upon by UNL administration to provide input on issues affecting the managerial/professional employees on campus and to provide representatives to serve on campus committees. This organization gives them a means to express their concerns.

The winner of February’s UAAD membership challenge was Barbara Rixstine; Rosalee Swartz was the current member contact.

Upcoming meetings

- April 16, Michael Meagher, Chemical Engineering, Othmer Hall
- May 21, Director of Athletics, Nebraska Union.

Meetings begin at 11:45 and end at approximately 1:00 pm

Prizes

- Lunch for two at University Dining Services
- Coupon for five free Starbucks drinks at “The Edge”
- Panasonic Caller ID phone

Take the UAAD membership challenge
Anne Mulligan
Membership Chair

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