

Budget

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and does not know the situation because he has not even visited the Legislature to talk to the politicians about the state of funding for UNLV.

"He hasn't been going to Carson City," said Joel Kostman, UNLV student body president. "No offense to regent Hammargren, but we've been working our butts off and there has definitely been progress. The regents have been lobbying, the faculty has been lobbying and the students have been lobbying."

Carolyn Sparks, the chair of the regents, said the budget and the scandal are unrelated.

"It (the mess) isn't delaying the budget," Sparks said. "One has nothing to do with the other."

Whether or not the budget is delayed the issue of UNLV and its controversies has already reached Carson City in the form of six bills now before the senate and the assembly.

The bills address a number of subjects that have been of con-

cern to legislators since the Tarkanian mess erupted. They include:

• Assembly bill 400 which allows for the UNLV Foundation and similar organizations to remain private—a response to allegations into UNLV Foundation slush funds.

• Assembly bill 401, part of which asks that any university or college employee must get approval of outside contracts from the board of regents—to control how and what coaches will receive for sponsoring products or appearing on television or radio shows.

• Assembly bill 403 which prevents public employees from publicly disclosing allegations about other employees before giving that person the chance to respond—a result of the alleged campaign of press leaks against Tarkanian.

• Assembly bill 404 that gives legislative committees subpoena powers. Assemblyman James McGauhey-R introduced it because former interim athletic director Dennis Finrock refused to testify before the committee (that McGauhey chaired) looking into the Tarkanian scandal.

• Senate bill 322 which would force the UNLV foundation to follow the Nevada open meeting laws. The laws require that all meetings be open to the public and that a schedule be posted at least five working days before the meeting. This one was also the result of alleged Foundation misdeeds.

"Those bills, they're amazing," Sparks said. "In the first place this board is an autonomous body and the Legislature has no power. I'm just amazed that McGauhey introduced them."

Sparks said the Legislature will also have to leave the UNLV Foundation alone in its deliberations.

"The Foundation is a private organization and will remain a private organization," Sparks said.

Athletic Director Jim Weaver questioned the appropriateness of the bill because of the rules that already govern athletics.

"I don't think that the legislative process needs to be involved in this issue," Weaver said. "If they understood the NCAA process they would see that they don't need to."

Dishonesty

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NCAA has been corrupted by its relationship with the UNLV administration.

"I tell you there is such collusion between UNLV and the NCAA," Hammargren said. "When they announced the investigation (in the Las Vegas Review-Journal) in the same article the NCAA said it doesn't look like a violation. Do you mean to tell me a student could not do his work and that's not a violation?"

The person who was to have done the investigation, Joseph Malik, recently declined the opportunity because past professional contacts with UNLV President Robert Maxson

could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Hammargren said he was pleased that Malik had resigned—he called it an absence of Malik—because he felt Malik was unqualified.

"It's an extremely complex issue," Hammargren said. "You have to have experience."

Hammargren did have a solution to the entire problem, a proposal he made during the last round of athletic disclosures in the press.

"I said if we have a problem we should drop the basketball program for two years," Hammargren said. "But oh no! And look, this is worse because it's academic fraud. I'm not sure we have to do it, but let's talk about it."

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