President’s Report to the Faculty Senate
April 3, 2006

The NU Board of Regents met March 3, 2006, in Varner Hall. The agenda was about 3” thick this month; still, only a fraction of those documents would be of immediate interest to UNK faculty. We did hear several PowerPoint presentations that contained snippets of information you might find interesting. You are, of course, welcome to borrow any of the handouts that accompanied these presentations. Just a quick run-down of some of the high points of each document.

1. *University of Nebraska Strategic Framework Update*
   
   Tuition: The strategy—to keep tuition increases moderate and predictable.
   
   1-year target: 5% increase; 3-year target: no greater than 8-9% increase
   
   Enrollment: The strategy—NU shall increase its overall enrollment.
   
   1-year target: +0.85; 3-year target: +1.5% annually
   
   Faculty Merit Compensation: The strategy—Faculty Salaries and incentives (awarded on the basis of merit) and fringe benefits should exceed the average of peer institutions.
   
   1-year target: Develop a plan so that each campus exceeds the midpoint of its peers in faculty salaries by FY 2009. Award all salary increases on the basis of merit.
   
   3-year target: Demonstrate significant progress toward goal identified in 1-year target. Once the midpoint of peers has been exceeded, establish an exceptional merit fund to provide additional incentives related to performance.

The remainder of the document includes information over assessing student outcomes:

A. Traditional: actuarial; accreditation reviews; ratings/rankings; student, alumni, employer surveys; direct measures of student learning

B. Emerging and Experimental Approaches: several new standardized tests
   
   (Collegiate Learning Assessment and Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress)

2. *President’s Health Care Committee Report and Recommendations*

Summary of recommendations:

A. Do not adopt Medicare Part D pharmacy benefit for 2006 for Medicare eligible non-actives.

B. Bar NUCredits from being paid in cash.

C. Beginning 5 years after adoption of recommendation, any employee who retires for reasons other than disability should not be eligible for membership in NU’s health plan after retirement unless the employee has participated in the plan for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding retirement.

D. Employees who retire due to disability as defined by the SSA shall be eligible to remain in the health plan, paying both employee and employer share, until
such time as they become eligible for Medicare. After that time, s/he may remain in the health plan paying the full premium applicable to non-actives eligible for Medicare.

E. Expand disease management to include additional diseases with accepted efficacious clinical best practices.

3. Advanced Placement (AP)—Nebraska Numbers and Issues

Of the 340 high schools in the state, 74 (22%) offer AP curricula.

Only 5% of NE 11th and 12th graders enroll in AP courses.

Approximately 90% of Nebraska’s AP offerings are in the eastern part of the state.

Reasons for low numbers of AP offerings in NE:
- Budget issues; many small districts in rural NE; small class size policy; readily available dual enrollment offerings

Recommendations:
- Fund initiatives aimed at increasing the number of AP exams taken
- Pay for AP teacher training
- Pay for AP exams
- Encourage P-16 collaboration

Discussion: No collaboration between urban and rural schools at present. For some students, $82/AP test is a discouraging factor. Chairman McClurg: it may be better to apply resources to the existing chain of institutions rather than inserting another agency (such as AP).


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Overall, our percentage of change was 0.0%

In other news, Andrea Childress received a KUDOS award and the regents honored former UNK student body president Brad Bohn with a resolution of appreciation.

Next BOR meeting is April 21.

Martha Kruse, Faculty Senate President