The morning sessions of the BOR meeting included discussions of the NU Strategic Framework Update and Nebraska P-16.

**Strategic Framework Update:**

The process begins with President Milliken and the Board of Regents, followed by preliminary discussions on University Strategic Direction and Priority Focuses and Performance Measures. From there, the process moves to the President’s Council and a BOR task force, ending with input from administrators, faculty, staff, constituency groups, and the remainder of the BOR.

As I tried to summarize the document, looking for points of particular faculty interest, I realized that the entire presentation touches upon matters that affect all of us. For that reason, I will ask for an electronic copy of the PowerPoint presentation so that all members of Faculty Senate have access to it.

**Nebraska P-16:**

Under terms of the project, 30 states, including Nebraska, are now engaged in P-16 initiatives—programs that involve education systems from preschool through college. According to the presentation, “Each state concentrates on its own needs, but all are motivated by the same phenomenon—not enough American students are succeeding in our current education systems.” As with the Strategic Framework Update, every slide in this presentation is relevant to our work as faculty and I will ask for a copy of the presentation to be included with the packets for the October meeting.

Comments/Questions on Nebraska P-16 that do not appear in the hand-out:

--- The state is preparing too few math and science teachers.
--- Nebraska needs a coordinated strategy to assist Hispanic students.
--- Schools must learn how to communicate with parents who need information over their children’s academic progress
--- Secondary schools lack qualified AP instructors
--- A serious drop-off in academic performance occurs between grades 4 and 12.
--- How effective is the Nebraska Department of Education?
--- 59% of Nebraska’s high-school graduates go on to college. The percentage has never been much higher than that; we’re slightly above the national average.
--- (a “minority report” from Regent Miller) Success has to do with individual desire to work hard and achieve. The biggest problem is student responsibility. How do you motivate kids to study hard in school? The prospect of a lucrative career is probably the key. We aggravate the problem when we simply hand out programs.
Events from the afternoon meeting:

1. Tim Danube received a KUDOS award.
2. President Milliken recognized interim VCUR Kathy Smith for her work with students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
3. The BOR approved the naming of the athletic stadium at UNK the “Ron and Carol Cope Stadium.”
4. Representatives from Common Cause and the UNL Student Senate issued proclamations calling for the resignation of Regent David Hergert.
5. Mary Beck, president of UNL’s Academic Senate, read a statement supporting the investigation into violations of campaign finance laws by Regent Hergert.
6. During Public Comments, several Omaha residents protested the threat of eminent domain to displace them from their businesses so that their property could be used for UNO’s proposed expansion. [The BOR later went into closed session to discuss this expansion and, according to media accounts, decided against the imposition of eminent domain in efforts to acquire these properties.]

Documents available for your perusal:

University of Nebraska Strategic Framework Update
Nebraska P-16

Annual Report of UNK’s First Year Experience Committee

Martha Kruse
UNK Faculty Senate President