President’s Report

February 2, 2012

Update on Plan of Action:

- **Improving Communication:** The Executive Council has been working with the administration to address issues in advance rather than after the fact. This has included a structural change in the format of the monthly meeting to spend the majority of time discussing broader, emerging issues.

- **Budget Matters:** There has been very little discussion of the budget. VCBF Barbara Johnson will present to the Faculty Senate in March.

- **General Studies Assessment:** The Senate has worked with the General Studies Council and the Assessment Office to monitor assessment of the general studies program. Efforts have been made to strengthen the formal channels of communication among these bodies.

- **eCampus and Online Worldwide:** This is an item scheduled for discussion in the administration-executive meeting. No questions have been raised, but discussion with the campus and system administrators should occur before the semester’s end. General campus issues and concerns were discussed with President Milliken.

- **Supporting Faculty Leadership Development:** This issue has not been addressed. The Faculty Welfare committee will be asked to survey the campus to develop a report of the mentoring programs and practices currently used.

Selected Items from the Board of Regents Meetings: (12/8/11 and 1/27/12)

- Met with Joel D. Pedersen - Legal Counsel for UN regarding free speech on campus. As discussed in the senate, as a public university, we have limited ability to control who speaks on our campuses. Speakers violate the law if:
  - they trespass by entering non-public areas;
  - they interfere with the operation of the University (like blocking access); or,
  - they engage in harassment by singling out specific students and create a concern for student safety.

- **The Building a Healthier Nebraska Legislative Initiative** -
  - Four bills are going through the legislature with implications for the UN system and one that may directly impact UNK campus.
  - LB1055 would allocate 19 million dollars to expand the nursing program at UNK, including a new building attached to Bruner Hall. Chancellor Kristensen presented information on the project to the Regents (details reported elsewhere).

- **Graduation and Retention**
  - The 6-year graduation rates on each of the campuses were discussed, along with plans for how to improve those rates.
  - UNK is above the peer average (51.3%) at 57.6% in 2010 and may break 60% for 2011.
  - More detailed data on retention for specific programs (like Thompson Scholars) is available but has not been reported.
  - Plans UNK has for improving graduation and retention rates is reported elsewhere.

- Regent Jim McClurg was elected chair (Tim Clare Vice Chair).
- Senate Presidents met with Keith Dietz
  - Benefits enrollment is over and was managed with few problems.
  - Reimbursement account maximums will decrease due to health care reform (from $5,000 to $2,500).
  - Caremark will be passing on coupons to those on brand name prescriptions that are going off trademark.
  - The Plus 1 policy will be raised again, but most likely when conditions are most favorable for passage.