President’s Report

April 26, 2012

Highlights from the Board of Regents

Legislative Update
- Building A Healthy Nebraska Initiative
  - LB 968 appropriated funds for the Veterinary Diagnostics Center ($50 million to bond and $6.1 million annually), Cancer Research Center ($50 million), and College of Nursing/Allied Health ($15 million).
- Due to term limits, there will be many new senators in the legislature next term. Terms expiring include Heidemann (1), Howard (9), Flood (19), Langemeier (23), Fulton (29), Pahls (31), Fischer (43), Cornett (45), and Louden (49).

Operating Budget
- Approximately 2/3 of the budget is obligated funds. The remaining 1/3 is the state aided budget.
  - The state aided budget is primarily made up by State Tax Funds (63%) and Tuition (34%).
  - The expenditures from the state aided budget are Salaries and Benefits (81%) and Operations (19%).
- For the past 10 years, the budget has been flat based on the HEPI inflation index. This has required numerous reallocations on the different campuses.
- The tuition on each campus is below the peer average.
  - UNK’s is $6,320 compared to a peer average of $7,515.

UNK Facilities Development
- Centennial Towers will be renovated (one at a time) starting 2012.
- Wellness Center plans will come out in May.
- Martin Hall conversion plans are moving toward administrative function, admissions, and a campus entry point.
- The proposed roundabout on east campus is back on the agenda. The state put forward a plan that minimizes the impact on neighbors and has a faster implementation (2015 completion).

Assessment
- The strategic framework includes a goal to make sure that quality teaching, learning, and assessment are happening at each campus. Regents presented on the assessment procedures at each campus.
- Regent Hassebrook reported on assessment at UNK and noted that a variety of direct and indirect measures are used, since it is difficult to find a single measure. He highlighted COE’s assessment that collects data at entrance and at different levels on the way. He noted the improvement in general studies that went from 5% below the national average in 2007 to 2% above in 2010. He also mentioned that it might be a good idea for some level of assessment as a graduation requirement.
- Regent Ferlic noted that there is a lack of feedback between K-12 and higher education.
Online Worldwide

- Mary Niemiec presented on the distance education strategic framework.
- There are 101 distance education programs in the system (25 undergraduate and 76 graduate).
- Distance Education (DE) credit hours grew by 10% in 2010/11, which is the national average, including for profit institutions. There was 13% growth at UNK.
- 73% of DE credits are produced by DE only students at UNK (33% at UNL and 29% at UNO).
- The Marketing Strategy focuses on regional and national markets, audience specific markets (e.g. majors), and primarily Internet advertising.

Closing Status Report

Plan of Action

1. **Improving Communication** - The Faculty Senate has worked to maintain and extend its collaborative working relationship with the administration and provide timely information and updates to the faculty. As outgoing President, I recommend maintaining a collaborating relationship and current reporting procedures.

2. **Budget Matters** - Budget decisions will continue to need to be monitored for their impact on the academic community. The next biennium should present a greater need to attend to this issue.

**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. Three items bear ongoing consideration: (1) continuing development of general studies courses, (2) program assessment, and (3) purchasing and use of TaskStream.

**eCampus and Online Worldwide** - Online education will likely continue as an area to monitor in the Faculty Senate. The development and implementation of programs, the budget formula, and campus relationship to Online Worldwide will require continued consideration in the Senate. With the increase in undergraduate programs, there is increasing demand for online general studies courses.

3. **Supporting Faculty Leadership and Development** - The Faculty Welfare Committee has been charged with inventorying the mentoring programs across campus. There are plans to also investigate the perceived needs for mentoring. This work should continue and collaborate with the CTE.
Resolved and Unresolved Issues

- Assessment Data has been reported for the First Year program courses. With the new Assistant Director of First Year Programs and the Student Success Council, further discussion is warranted.
- The need for a campus repository for reporting and tracking academic dishonesty has come back to the senate and will need to be addressed by the Student Affairs Committee (April 26, 2012).
- Discussions over altering the General Studies program in order to meet the 120 hour degree limit imposed by the Board of Regents occurred and decisions were made with consideration of faculty concerns and suggestions (Oct. 2011).
- The transition plan for removing the WI/CD bureaucratic procedures need to be developed. Progress has been made, but a plan has not been developed.
- The College Apportionment procedures in the constitution were updated (Feb. 2012).

Concluding Comments

As President, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Council, the Committee Chairs and Representatives, and the members of the Senate. Your hard work and dedication are an essential component of the operation of this university.