VR submitted, Ken Trantham, Faculty Senate President Elect

State Auditor Presentation, Mike Foley:

Appeared as an informal FYI. The 2012 audit completed and published. Clean, -no qualifications. Minor issues to resolve, Management letter will respond.

Legislative update, Ron Withem:


Affordability Compact, President Milliken:

Hold tuition at current rates. Increase state funding. State appropriations provide ~62%. State funding increases flat over past five years. NU purchasing power eroded (~22% over five years). Governor proposal 4.2% average increase per year for 2014 and 2015. NU increases are smaller than Medicaid(+10.3%), and state colleges (+4.5%). NU continues to become smaller share of state spending, approx -7% per year since 1985.

Out of state tuition varies greatly across campuses. Compact does not apply to out-of-state tuition.

Affordability Compact and Strategic Framework Goals: Affordable access: Encourage critical state investment in NU. Addresses concerns of tuition-paying Nebraskans by maintaining moderate tuition levels. Quality: allows us to invest in key priorities such as competitive salaries and benefits for our employees and strong academic programs. Workforce and Economic Development: helps ensure a college education is in reach for Nebraskans to build a talented, competitive workforce. Accountability: Provide sustainable budget growth.

Campus Housing Update, Susan Gildersleeve:

Proposed housing rate increase, +4.5% for 2013-14 and up to +4.5% for 2014-15. Needed to keep up with increasing enrollment and facility improvements.
Health Insurance Update, David Lechner:

University Self Insure Health Plan. Costs $140M per year. Premiums for comparable to Kaiser (2011), most common benchmark. Ten year history (2003 – 2013): employer contribution increased by 115% while employee contribution increased by 54%. Revenues have increased more than expenses. Net excess ($105M) put into a trust.

Plus One sign up: Presently at 71 persons. (Est 100-200 person Jun,2012 BOR meeting)

Legislative issues. LB138. State Auditor performance audit. Good plan. However, one main issue. State vs University trust funds. The issue: Can the BOR legally create trust funds? Is the excess money that is in the Self Health Insure trust accessible by the state? Presently BOR trust return about 5%. If LB138 successful, return would be about 2.6%

Spend down strategies: Premium “holidays” for abatement, Wellness programs, or other Health Incentives. Future risks: Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) outlines penalties/mandates for temporary workers. Currently grandfathered, but this could change.

Strategic Framework Report-Graduation Rates.

Pete Lipins, Senior Research Analyst

Accountability Measure, Strategic Framework Goal 1: 1) Each campus will maintain or reach the average six-year graduation rate of its peers. 2) all prospective and current undergraduate students are regularly informed and assisted in obtaining the benefit of the University’s four-year graduation guarantee.

Calculations based on cohort of first-time (first post-secondary school, so transfer students are excluded), degree seeking freshmen students who enroll full-time in the first semester. Report on freshmen cohort of fall 2005.

UNK six year rate is 60.6% for 2011. Peer average is 51.2%. (UNK peers are Univ. of Central Missouri, Minn. State Univ. Moorhead, Murray State Univ., Northern Michigan Univ., Sam Houston State Univ., Univ. of Central Arkansas, Univ. of Northern Iowa, Univ. of WI, Stevens Pt., Western Illinois Univ., Univ. of N. Colorado.)

UNO six-year rate is 43.0%, peers are 42.6%. UNL six-year rate is 70.0%, peers are 66.7%.

UNK 4, 5, 6-year rates compared indicates time-to-graduation. 2005 Cohort 6-yr rate is 60.6%, 5-yr rate is 51.6%, and 4-year rate is 22.5%.
Graduation Rates at UNK, Charles Bicak

Characteristics of UNK students: nearly 50% of students are first-generation students. Mean ACT for incoming freshmen in 2012 was 22.9; middle of peers. Most students work. 19% of first time freshmen work >20hrs/week. Seniors, 70% of seniors work. Overall student body: 55% work.

Progress during the last two years. 1) Strategic Plan for Retention has been completed. 2) Operational Status of a Graduation Strategy Task Force. Twentyish faculty/staff. Inventory what we do, identify ineffective efforts and ways to improve. Four or five subcommittees. One, “New Initiatives” subcommittee, white-paper deliverable expected late spring 2013. 3) Consolidation of Offices of Academic Advising and Career Services.

Initiatives 1) Early warning referral System, 2) 4-year templates. Eight semester template/plan to show students at NSE in the summer. Conceptually tied to BoR 4-year guarantee. 3) Freshmen Advising, 4) First Year Experience, 5) Learning Commons, both physical and conceptual notion. 6) Centrality of Academic Advising; Faculty Senate passed a resolution (4April2002) indicating that quality advising is valued along with good teaching and scholarship; this conversation is still active on campus.

Questions and comments from BoR members:

Pillin: Do we identify how many incoming students express an intend to graduate in four years? Some may, some may not want to graduate in four years.

Clare: Recognize issues with students working at a job. Also, some students prefer to take longer. Additionally, disruptions caused by programs such as study abroad, are hard to work around. The things that we can improve are good counseling and advising. Recognize that poor advising can place a student behind and frustrated. There needs to be some sort of accountability for advising.

Hawks: For Fall 2012 incoming freshmen, do we know how many students are interested in completing our eight semester program? Do they sign anything? Is there a commitment from the students? There is no formal contract. Hawks suggests tracking how many students intend to follow the eight semester plan, and then how many fall way from the plan and for what reason.

Whitehouse: (during UNO’s presentation, but applicable) How much FTE resources are being directed at all of the care/help for the students?