President’s Report  
March 27, 2013

Selections from the Board of Regents’ meeting March 15, 2013

- **Legislative Update**
  Greg Adams, speaker of the Legislature, gave a brief overview of his perceptions of the upcoming legislative year:
  - New senators are committed and are working hard to learn what is needed to carry out their responsibilities.
  - 655 bills have already been presented to the legislature, which is in its 42nd day.
  - Since it is the first year of a biennium, the budget will be important.
  - Education will remain a priority; however, with competing funds for other areas of education, higher education may not get everything they would like to reach their goals.

- **Sequestration**
  Sequestration will impact on research funds mostly affecting UNMC and UNL. However, sequestration will also affect student aid. This will mean that students applying for financial aid will have less funds to access and may get less coverage. The NU system will keep an eye on this so that they can figure out how to help keep college affordable to Nebraska’s students.

- **Votes of Approval**
  - The Board of Regents voted to approve the Program and Facilities fees for UNK for the 2013-2014 school year. The amount approved showed a total budget increased based on enrollment only. UNK did not propose any new fees.
  - The Board of Regents approved the program statement (like a proposal) and the budget for the new Health Sciences Education Building at UNK. They also approved the consultant firm who will provide consulting for the building’s architectural design.

- **Other Points of Interest**
  - The Board of Regents was informed of the naming of the “Douglas Lund Genetics and Molecular Biology Laboratory” in the Bruner Hall of Science.
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- **Plan of Action Items**
  - To keep the Faculty Senate informed of the following areas affecting faculty:
    - NCA accreditation
    - The first year program
    - Student Success committee
    - Graduation Taskforce
    - Supports for new faculty through the CTE
    - Cross-campus initiatives:
      - Water for Food
      - Rural Futures
      - Buffett Early Childhood Institute
      - The Healthy Nebraska Initiative and the progress of the Health Sciences Education building
    - Building projects on campus and the building plan to date
  - How Faculty Senate was informed:
    - Through the Faculty Senate Retreat
    - Through presentations at Faculty Senate meetings
    - Discussion points at the Executive Committee—Administration meetings
  - To address items of concern or unfinished business from the previous year and follow through to some form of conclusion:
    - To improve the application process for the Artist’s and Lecturer’s Committee that would allow spring applications for fall. Meetings with the committee about the committee’s needs provided them support, which in turn, allowed them to put out a call in spring for fall proposals.
    - To permanently get rid of the WI/CD designation requirements in MyBlue (and to subsequently dissolve the WI/CD committee). Meetings with administration allowed this to happen.
  - To create a Faculty Senate President Guide that can be annually updated used in the mentoring process for the President-Elect. Guide has been sent to the President-Elect.
• **Other Faculty Senate Accomplishments**
  o Charged the Faculty Welfare Committee to research office hours at peer institutions and to develop guidelines for office hours. The guidelines were approved, they have been sent to the SVCAA to pass on to the deans.
  o Charged the Student Affairs committee with working on a form for Incompletes and for Academic Dishonesty. These were created and were sent to the SVCAA, which passed these to the deans. Incompletes will be handled by departments. Dishonesty forms will be handled by the office of the SVCAA.
  o Charged the Academic Information Technology Committee to survey faculty regarding textbook use and the technology related to these. Student and faculty data from two separate surveys have been collected and distributed to the Faculty Senate. Copies of the survey results have been passed on to the administration and Barbara Johnson, in particular.
  o Charged the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee with reading the Post-Tenure Review guidelines and providing clarification and guidance. The guidelines were sent for distribution to the Faculty Senate for the April 4 meeting.

• **Faculty Senate Items to be Carried to the Next Year**
  o Final vote on changes to the Constitution and By-laws
  o Motions that may arise from the Post-Tenure Review guidelines