



The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

June 2010

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A report from the June 2010 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Regents approve University's 2010-2011 operating budget

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved NU's 2010-2011 operating budget during its June meeting – a budget that President James B. Milliken said reflects prudence during difficult economic times and preparation for the challenging biennium ahead.

The budget, Milliken said, represents shared sacrifice and a focus on the university's core values. But he said it is not sustainable in the long term if NU is to remain competitive.

Milliken said affordable access to high-quality education will remain the university's highest priority as it looks ahead to the next biennium, in which the state faces a projected \$670 million shortfall. A modest tuition increase coupled with the largest investment in financial aid in NU's history reflects this commitment to affordable access.

Key elements of the budget include:

- A 6 percent tuition increase. The increase – lower than what many NU peers have approved – means full-time, undergraduates will pay about \$135 to \$170 more per semester. Even with the increase, NU campuses remain significantly below their peers in cost.
- A 6 percent increase in need-based financial aid to hold harmless the students with the greatest financial need. This includes Collegebound Nebraska, which guarantees that most Nebraska families of four with an income of \$53,000 or less will pay no tuition at NU.
- An additional one-time investment of \$2 million to allow campus financial aid officers to meet additional student needs.
- No funding provided for faculty and staff salary increases. Many peers also are awarding no raises, but this practice – though prudent this year – is not sustainable since NU's faculty and staff are its greatest asset and must be compensated appropriately, Milliken said.
- One-time, strategic investments that will position NU for the future, such as energy efficiencies, deferred maintenance projects and student recruitment initiatives.

The budget includes a shortfall of \$10.1 million. This comes on top of \$8.5 million in reductions the university faced for 2009-2010.

2009-2010 undergraduate resident tuition and fees: NU vs. peers

UNL: \$6,857

UNL Peers: \$8,574

*25% increase to reach peers

UNK: \$5,634

UNK Peers: \$6,806

*21% increase to reach peers

UNO: \$6,229

UNO Peers: \$6,994

*12% increase to reach peers

UNMC College of Medicine: \$24,681

UNMC Peers: \$27,525

*11.5% increase to reach peers

UNL accepted into Big Ten Conference after Board of Regents approves application

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln was accepted into the Big Ten Conference after the Board of Regents unanimously approved a resolution authorizing UNL's application for membership.

The Board approved its resolution after presentations from UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman and Athletic Director Tom Osborne on the rationale for moving to the Big Ten – which President Milliken called “the premier athletic and academic conference in the country.”

With its move to the Big Ten, UNL also joins the prestigious Committee on Institutional Cooperation, an academic consortium of Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago that fosters collaboration in research projects and other initiatives. All Big Ten schools belong to the highly prestigious Association of American Universities, as does UNL. Big Ten universities also attract 12 percent of all federal research funding annually.

Nebraska will begin Big Ten play in 2011.

“We look forward to joining an extraordinary group of institutions that have demonstrated strength in athletics, a loyal and dedicated fan base and an exceptional level of academic achievement,” Milliken said.

Regents learn of NU's efforts to improve affordable access to education

The University of Nebraska will invest more in need-based financial aid -- \$9.9 million – in 2010-2011 than ever in its history, Executive Vice President and Provost Linda Pratt told regents during a presentation on access. NU will also make a one-time investment of \$2 million to meet additional student needs.

Aid programs include Collegebound Nebraska, which guarantees that eligible students will pay no tuition at NU. Nearly 6,000 students were Collegebound-eligible this year, up from about 5,100 the previous year.

Federal Pell Grants are also increasing in value, and more students are benefiting from scholarships provided by the Susan T. Buffett Foundation, Pratt said.

Board OKs new IANR vice chancellor

The Board of Regents approved the appointment of Ronnie Green, a senior director at Pfizer Animal Health, as the university's new vice president and vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Board also approved Green's appointment to the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corp. Board of Directors.

John Owens, whom Green succeeds, is returning to the faculty after serving as IANR vice chancellor since 2001.

News briefs

- The Board approved new undergraduate certificates at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in data management, systems development and technical communications. By using existing courses and faculty, the certificates can be offered without any additional resources.
- The Board approved renovation of the basement, first and second floors of the UNL Entomology Hall. The critically needed renovation is scheduled to begin in September and conclude in 2012.
- Regents approved naming the UNL Physical Sciences Building the Theodore Jorgensen Hall. Jorgensen received his bachelor's and master's degrees from UNL and later was a legendary teacher and researcher in the physics department. He also served with the Manhattan Project during World War II.
- Regents approved naming the new student housing complex at UNO “Scott Court” in recognition of support from the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation.
- President Milliken reported the naming of the Ndamukong Suh Strength and Conditioning Center at the UNL Osborne Athletic Complex. Suh, a former Husker defensive standout, announced in advance of the 2010 NFL draft a \$2.6 million gift to the university, including \$2 million to go toward Athletics and \$600,000 to endow a scholarship in the College of Engineering, from which he earned his degree in December 2009.