The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska met on April 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. by remote electronic means as provided by in Governor Ricketts’ Executive Order No. 20-03, in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advance publicized notice, a copy of which is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Attachment 1 (page 17).

In compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411, printed notice of this meeting was sent to each member of the Board and was posted on the front of the first floor entrance of Varner Hall. In addition, copies of such notice were sent to the Lincoln Journal Star, Omaha World Herald, the Daily Nebraskan, the Gateway, the Antelope, the Kearney Hub, and the Lincoln office of the Associated Press on April 10, 2020.

Regents present:
Timothy Clare
Howard Hawks
Paul Kenney, Vice Chair
Elizabeth O’Connor
Bob Phares
Jim Pillen, Chair
Robert Schafer
Barbara Weitz
Nicole Kent, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Emily Johnson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Keith Ozanne, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Aya Yousuf, University of Nebraska at Omaha

University officials present:
Walter E. Carter, President
Susan M. Fritz, Executive Vice President and Provost
Carmen K. Maurer, Corporation Secretary
Jeffrey P. Gold, Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska at Omaha
Ronnie D. Green, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Douglas A. Kristensen, Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Christopher J. Kabourek, Vice President for Business and Finance | CFO
Heath M. Mello, Interim Vice President for University Affairs and Director of State Relations-elect
James P. Pottorff, Vice President and General Counsel
Michael J. Boehm, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

The Board convened at 9:00 a.m. by remote electronic means as provided by in Governor Ricketts’ Executive Order No. 20-03. Attendance is indicated above.
III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS

Motion Moved by Pillen and seconded by Clare to approve the minutes and ratify the actions of the regularly scheduled meeting on February 7, 2020.


Chairman Pillen announced the location of the Notice of Meeting and Open Meetings Act posted on the front entry of Varner Hall.

IV. RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Regent Clare presented the following resolution

WHEREAS, Nicole Kent has served with distinction as a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and President of the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska at Kearney; and

WHEREAS, through thoughtful and reflective leadership, Regent Kent has earned the trust and respect of students, faculty and administration; and

WHEREAS, under Regent Kent’s leadership, Student Government passed resolutions in support of bills in the Nebraska legislature that directly benefit the University of Nebraska, and resolutions encouraging the University Foundation to explore divestment; and

WHEREAS, Regent Kent consistently supported and represented student interests in the transition of campus dining providers and planning for the future of UNK dining; efforts to update UNK’s academic amnesty policy; working with Faculty Senate to enact student-centered finals week policies; and ongoing efforts with UNK Police and Parking to formalize flexible parking policies; and

WHEREAS, Regent Kent oversaw the placement of hammocks at various campus locations, an endeavor that has proven very popular with students; led initial design team planning for installation of sand volleyball courts; and supported True Blue Game Day, encouraging Loper Pride on game days; and

WHEREAS, with the help of the executive cabinet, Regent Kent planned and successfully executed the “Play it Forward” volleyball tournament which collected donations for Kearney’s Crossroads Shelter, and “The Big Event,” which engages students in volunteer projects at job sites throughout Kearney; and

WHEREAS, Regent Kent exemplifies the best of the best: a student who maintains a 4.0 grade point average; scored in the 99th percentile on the MCAT; presented research on rural healthcare at the Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium in Japan; and, to top it off, is a multi-time intramural champion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Nebraska Board of Regents expresses its sincere appreciation for the exemplary contributions of Regent Nicole Kent during her term of office and wishes her well in the promising future that awaits her.
Regent Phares presented the following resolution

WHEREAS, Student Regent Emily Johnson has served with distinction as a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and as President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) for the 2019-2020 term; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson worked with students and administrators to improve overall student mental health by increasing the number of fee-covered visits at Counseling and Psychological Services and leading projects to reduce the stigma surrounding mental healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson has served as a member of the UNL Collaborative on Sexual Misconduct and as a co-chair of the Student Committee on Sexual Misconduct in an effort to reduce sexual and gender violence among college students; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson collaborated with ASUN Student Government, UNL Student Affairs, and General Counsel to develop a revised Student Code of Conduct that emphasizes student rights and readability; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson has led environmental sustainability projects both within ASUN Student Government and across the University system; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson represented University of Nebraska-Lincoln students in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels discussing topics such as healthcare access, college affordability, and student rights; and

WHEREAS, Regent Johnson served on the Board of Regents Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and on the Presidential Transition Committee; and

WHEREAS, through thoughtful and reflective leadership, Regent Johnson has represented her 26,000 fellow Huskers to the best of her ability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Nebraska Board of Regents expresses sincere appreciation for Regent Emily Johnson’s dedicated service and effective leadership as a member of the Board, and wishes her well in all future endeavors.

Regent Weitz presented the following resolution

WHEREAS, Keith Ozanne has served as a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and as President of the University of Nebraska Medical Center Student Senate during the 2019-2020 term; and

WHEREAS, Regent Ozanne represented himself, his institution and his fellow students with dignity and integrity during board meetings and events, and has served as a vocal and unwavering advocate for students throughout UNMC and the NU system; and
WHEREAS, during his time as a student at UNMC, Regent Keith Ozanne has held multiple campus leadership positions beyond President/Regent while balancing the demands of medical school and traveling extensively for residency interviews; and

WHEREAS, Regent Ozanne continued to improve on engaging with senators from UNMC campuses in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Norfolk and Lincoln via online meeting involvement and planning future events; and

WHEREAS, Regent Ozanne helped implement UNMC Omaha campus-wide student communication on campus, leading to the establishment of the weekly UNMC Vitals student engagement newsletter with plans on expanding the communication tool to all UNMC campuses; and

WHEREAS, Regent Ozanne provided feedback for two proposed fees and helped facilitate meaningful decision among the UNMC senators, ultimately leading to the approval of the Student Access and Success Fee and the rejection with proposed feedback and alterations to the proposed technology fee; and

WHEREAS, Regent Ozanne helped coordinate and lead an advocacy retreat which had representation from 60 students from all four campuses and also helped promote and host I Love NU day at the state capitol and participated in many letter writing campaigns and advocacy on behalf of the students at UNMC and the NU system abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Nebraska Board of Regents expresses its sincere appreciation for Regent Keith Ozanne's dedicated service and effective leadership as a member of the board, and wishes him success in all of his future endeavors.

Regent Kenney presented the following resolution

WHEREAS, Aya Yousuf has served with distinction as a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and President of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Government for the 2019-20 term; and

WHEREAS, during her time as a student at UNO, Aya Yousuf has held multiple campus leadership positions beyond President/Regent while balancing the demands of a student; and

WHEREAS, in all of her leadership roles, especially as a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, Aya Yousuf has actively listened and elevated the voices of her fellow students to inform decisions made by the Board of Regents, and was selected to speak at Interim President Fritz’s installation, the first woman president at the University of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Aya Yousuf, as president, has worked diligently to include diverse perspectives and ways of thinking to improve the student experience at UNO; and

WHEREAS, during her term as President, Aya Yousuf led UNO’s Student Government with integrity, empathy, and a focus on elevating the student experience; and
WHEREAS, through socially responsible leadership, a critical eye, and grace under pressure, Regent Aya Yousuf has gained the admiration and respect of UNO administration, faculty, staff, and students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Nebraska Board of Regents commend Regent Aya Yousuf for her outstanding service and her dedication to the University of Nebraska, and wish her success in all of her future undertakings.

Resolutions Adopted

There being no objection, the above resolutions were approved and adopted by the general consent of the Board.

Regent Pillen recognized and thanked the outgoing Faculty Senate Presidents: Kevin Hanrahan, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Matthew Hale, Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Dawn Mollenkopf, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska at Kearney; and Allison Cushman-Vokoun, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

V.

HEARINGS

None

VI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion Regent Pillen moved that the portion of the Standing Rules providing for the public’s physical presence at a meeting be waived and that the processes for public comment at this meeting conform to the meeting notice provided to the public one week ago. Seconded by Weitz.


Ms. Ivy Harper spoke on the topic of administrative salaries.

Mr. Ricky Fulton spoke on the topic of purposed Husker facility project and related fund development at UNL.

President Carter made remarks, including and announcement of the initiation of the “Nebraska Promise” program, which will guarantee free tuition to Nebraska students with a family income of $60,000 or less. President Carter also made remarks concerning the University’s actions and involvement concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

VII.

UNIVERSITY CONSENT AGENDA

A. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

University of Nebraska

VII-A-1 President’s Personnel Recommendations

VII-A-2 Approve the amendments to RP-5.8.5 (attached) of the Policies of the Board of Regents (the “Policies”) related to undergraduate Regents Scholarships

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

VII-A-3 Approval is requested to eliminate the Classical Languages Major associated with the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL

University of Nebraska Medical Center

VII-A-4 Approval is requested to create a Doctor of Public Health in the College of Public Health at UNMC

VII-A-5 Approval is requested to create a Master of Diagnostic Cytology in the College of Allied Health Professions at UNMC

B. BUSINESS AFFAIRS

University of Nebraska

VII-B-1 Approve the new Board of Regents Policy RP-6.8, External Financing

University of Nebraska Medical Center

VII-B-2 Approval to establish a quasi-endowment from the unrestricted residual funds of the Medical Student Aid Program to establish the “UNMC Student Success Scholarship”

Action


VIII. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

A. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

B. BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion

Moved by Phares and seconded by Ozanne to approve item VIII-B-1

University of Nebraska Medical Center

VIII-B-1 Approve a scope and privately funded budget change of $4,660,000 for the Wittson Hall Renovation/Wigton Heritage Center Project on the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus

Action

Vice President Kabourek offered remarks with respect to the status of facility projects, given the economic impact of the pandemic.

C. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

VIII-C-1 University of Nebraska Strategic Planning Framework
VIII-C-2 University of Nebraska Strategic Framework Accountability Measures
VIII-C-3 Calendar of establishing and reporting accountability measures
VIII-C-4 University of Nebraska Strategic Dashboard Indicators
VIII-C-5 Board of Regents agenda items related to the University of Nebraska Strategic Framework

D. REPORTS

VIII-D-1 Quarterly Personnel Reports for the period October through December 2019
VIII-D-2 Spring 2020 Enrollment report
VIII-D-3 Strategic Framework report on Workforce Opportunities and Academic Program Alignment [3-h-i & iii]
VIII-D-4 Strategic Framework reports on Entrepreneurship [5-d]
VIII-D-5 Expedited Approval of the Museum Studies Graduate Certificate in the Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)
VIII-D-6 Naming the Women’s Team Room at the new gymnastics facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln “The Cory Wiedel Family Team Room,” pursuant to Board of Regents Policy RP-6.2.7.3.b
VIII-D-7 Naming the genetics conference center within the Munroe-Meyer Institute “the Warren G. Sanger Conference Center,” pursuant to Board of Regents Policy RP-6.2.7.3b
VIII-D-8 Quarterly Status of Capital Construction Projects
VIII-D-9 Members of the University of Nebraska Project Review Board Pool
VIII-D-10 Bids and Contracts
VIII-D-11 Quarterly report of Gifts, Grants, Contracts and Bequests
VIII-D-12 Naming of the Hoehner Family Conference Room at the University of Nebraska at Kearney
VIII-D-13 Approve naming of the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Building as “Discovery Hall”
VIII-D-14  Report on exercise of emergency authority in RP-6.3.1., paragraph 6.b., to authorize contract

IX.  ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Pillen at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

________________________________________
Carmen K. Maurer
Corporation Secretary

________________________________________
James D. Pillen, Chair
NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska will meet in a publicly convened session on Friday, April 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. by remote electronic means as provided by in Governor Ricketts’ Executive Order No. 20-03. Audio stream is available at https://nebraska.edu.

The full agenda for the meeting is available by contacting the office of the Corporation Secretary of the Board of Regents, Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, at corpsec@nebraska.edu or at https://nebraska.edu/regents/agendas-minutes

Any member of the public wishing to speak in the Public Comment portion of the meeting must contact the Office of the Corporation Secretary no less than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting. The public may so contact the Office of the Corporation Secretary by leaving a voice mail message at 402-472-7146 or by e-mailing adibbert@nebraska.edu. Upon receipt of such notice, the Office of the Corporation Secretary will provide instruction on remote participation in this public meeting.

A copy of this notice will be delivered to the Lincoln Journal Star, the Omaha World-Herald, the Daily Nebraskan, the Gateway, the Antelope, the Kearney Hub, the Lincoln office of the Associated Press, members of the Board of Regents, and the President’s Council of the University of Nebraska.

Dated: April 10, 2020

Carmen K. Maurer
Corporation Secretary
Board of Regents
University of Nebraska