The Presidential Search Advisory Committee of the University of Nebraska met via videoconference on October 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 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 __). 

In compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411, notice of this meeting was sent to each member of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and was posted in the first-floor lobby 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 October 19, 2023.

Committee members present:
Leah Barrett
Tim Clare, Chair
Chris Exstrom
Paul Kenney
Kelli Kopocis
Hakim Lotoro
Scott McPheeters
William Melanson
Heath Mello
Jane Miller
Temo Molina
Amar Natarajan
Elizabeth O’Connor
Rob Otte
Paul Pechous
Rob Schafer
Jim Scheer
Katie Schultis (joined at 4:00 p.m. and left at 4:30 p.m.)
Jack Stark
John Stinner
Barbara Weitz
Kathy Wilmot (joined at 3:15 p.m.)

Academic Search participants:
Jennifer Kookken
Jay Lemons
George Ross

University officials present:
Phil Bakken, Corporation Secretary and Committee Secretary
I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee convened at 3:04 p.m.

Chair Clare outlined the procedures and protocols for the Committee’s meetings; and stated that a quorum shall be required for each meeting of the Committee and a majority of all members of the Committee (12 of 22 members) shall constitute a quorum. The order of business for each meeting shall normally be roll call, approval of minutes and ratification of actions taken at the previous meeting, public comment, the stated agenda, and adjournment. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be utilized as a procedural authority. Any item before the Committee for action may be approved by an affirmative vote from a majority of the quorum present and votes shall be taken by roll call in rotating alphabetical order.

There being no objection, Phil Bakken was appointed to serve as secretary to the committee. Attendance is indicated above.

Chair Clare announced the location of the Open Meeting Act in the Boardroom.

III. WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Committee and Academic Search introduced themselves.

IV. PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARGE

Chair Clare gave a charge to the Committee, stating, “The University of Nebraska Presidential Search Advisory Committee is charged with recommending unranked semifinalist candidates to the Board of Regents. To complete this charge, the Committee is expected to:

• Solicit broad input from the University of Nebraska’s campus community regarding the qualities desired in the University’s next president.
• Use the Nine Core Leadership Pillars approved by the Board of Regent and qualities identified by the University community to build a Leadership Profile and Advertisement to guide candidate nomination and recruitment.
• Invite nominations and broadly recruit candidates.
• Carefully evaluate candidates against the Nine Core Leadership Pillars and assess institutional “fit” based on input from the entire University community.

In addition, Committee members are expected to:

• Play an active role in all facets of the Committee’s work.
• Set aside parochial concerns and act in the best interest of the entire University System.
• Disclose to the Committee Secretary or University’s General Counsel any potential conflicts of interest.
• Serve as ambassadors on behalf of the University of Nebraska.
• Understand and agree that the Committee Chair will serve as spokesperson for the search.
• Maintain strict confidentiality throughout the process, respecting the privacy of candidates.
V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ROLE OF ACADEMIC SEARCH

Jay Lemons shared an overview regarding the role of Academic Search and how the firm will support the Committee’s work.

VII. DISCUSSION OF LEADERSHIP PROFILE AND CORE LEADERSHIP PILLARS

Chair Clare shared the October 5, 2023 resolution from the Board of Regents outlining the nine Core Leadership Pillars. The Committee discussed the Core Leadership Pillars. The Committee also engaged in a discussion regarding the qualities, attributes, and skills desired in the next president.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Moved by Stark and seconded by Scheer that the Committee go into closed session as authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1410 for the protection of the public interest, and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of persons who have not requested a public hearing, for the purpose of holding a discussion limited to the following subject:

- Confidential personnel matters involving the search and selection of the President of the University of Nebraska.

Action

Voting Aye: Clare, Exstrom, Kenney, Kopocis, Lotoro, McPheeters, Melanson, Mello, Miller, Molina, Natarajan, O’Connor, Otte, Pechous, Schafer, Scheer, Schultis, Stark, Stinner, Weitz, Wilmot, and Barrett. Motion carried.

Chair Clare declared that the closed session would be strictly limited to a discussion of:

- Confidential personnel matters involving the search and selection of the President of the University of Nebraska.

The Committee went into closed session at 4:09 p.m.

The Committee reconvened the open meeting at 4:57 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Clare at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip J. Bakken
Committee Secretary

Timothy F. Clare
Committee Chair
NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Presidential Search Advisory Committee of the University of Nebraska will meet in a publicly convened session on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. via videoconference in the Boardroom at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

An agenda of subjects to be considered at said meeting, kept on a continually current basis is available for inspection in the Office of the Corporation Secretary of the Board of Regents at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska and at https://nebraska.edu/regents/agendas-minutes.

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee during the Public Comment portion of the meeting in-person will continue to follow the provisions of Standing Rule 5.1. Members of the public wishing to address the Committee during the Public Comment portion of the meeting via remote participation must contact the Corporation Secretary no less than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting. Members of the public may contact the Corporation Secretary at (402) 472-3906 or corpsec@nebraska.edu. Upon receipt of such notice, the Corporation Secretary will provide instructions on remote participation in the 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, and members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Dated: October 19, 2023

Philip J. Bakken,
Corporation Secretary, Board of Regents
Secretary, Presidential Search Advisory Committee