The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska met on April 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.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 advanced publicized notice, a copy of which is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Attachment 1 (page 297).

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 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 April 12, 2024.

Regents present:
Timothy Clare (joined at 10:30 a.m.)
Paul Kenney, Vice Chair
Robert Schafer, Chair
Jim Scheer
Jack Stark
Barbara Weitz
Kathy Wilmot
Temo Molina, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Paul Pechous, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Katie Schultis, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Hakim Lotoro, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Regents absent:
Elizabeth O’Connor

University officials present:
Christopher J. Kabourek, Interim President
Jeffrey P. Gold, Executive Vice President and Provost; and Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Philip J. Bakken, Corporation Secretary
Rodney D. Bennett, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Joanne Li, Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Douglas A. Kristensen, Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Michael J. Boehm, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Stacia L. Palser, Vice President and General Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

The Board convened at 9:01 a.m. Attendance is indicated above.

Chair Schafer announced the location of the Open Meetings Act in the Boardroom.
III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON MARCH 20, 2024

Motion
Moved by Scheer and seconded by Weitz to approve the minutes and ratify the actions of the meeting on March 20, 2024.

Action

IV. PRESENTATIONS
None.

V. KUDOS

Regent Molina presented a KUDOS award to Shawn Lienemann, Workstation Support Specialist at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Regent Pechous presented a KUDOS award to Mindy Liebelt, Outreach Specialist for the Center on Children, Families, and the Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Regent Schultis presented a KUDOS award to Amber Hawk, Admissions and Recruitment Director in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Regent Lotoro presented a KUDOS award to Jason Jones, Building Services Manager for the Weitz Community Engagement Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

VI. RESOLUTIONS

Regent Wilmot presented the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, Regent Molina’s dedicated, trustworthy, and approachable leadership has earned him the trust and respect of students, faculty, and administration; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Molina has provided consistent, measured dedication to the issues facing the University and its students and has fostered quality dialogue between University administration and students; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Molina has broadly represented the students of UNK and has served as an effective advocate, both substantively and descriptively; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Molina professionally approached sensitive topics, namely budget challenges and a robust President Search, and presented these and other issues to the student body with an informed understanding of the difficulties and opportunities; and,
WHEREAS, through his work with UNK Student Government to renew focus on responsible stewardship, direct resources toward student initiatives, and utilize dormant pandemic allocations, Regent Molina was successful in approving funding for student events, campus safety, sustainability promotion, and facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Molina’s personal background as a first-generation Latino student allowed him to effectively represent underrepresented students; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Molina has been humbled to hear students tell him that his service, and their witness of him in the role of Student Regent, has given them hope and inspiration to become leaders themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents expresses its sincere appreciation for the exemplary contributions of Regent Temo Molina during his term of office and wishes him well in the promising future that awaits him.

Regent Scheer presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Paul Pechous has served with distinction as a member of the Board of Regents and as President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) for the 2023-2024 term; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska System has experienced significant changes and challenges throughout the past year, including welcoming a new Chancellor and Vice Chancellors, searching for the next president, facing budgetary deficits, and navigating international conflicts; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Pechous has demonstrated dedication, effective leadership, and unwavering commitment to addressing these challenges and advancing the interests of UNL students and the University community as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Pechous has exemplified the values of collaboration, transparency, and intentional inclusion in his service on the Board and as President of ASUN, fostering strong partnerships with students, student organizations, administrators, and campus partners; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Pechous has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives aimed at enhancing campus safety, including continuing conversations of offering safe, late-night rides for students, increasing mental health resources through the Green Bandana Project, and improving academic opportunities for students, while also advocating for the financial stability and well-being of ASUN and the University; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Pechous has played a pivotal role in elevating the student voice within the University governance structure, championing collaborative initiatives to empower students and amplify their perspectives in decision-making processes; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Pechous committed to increasing the services offered to students including the creation of a shuttle program between area airports and UNL’s campuses before and after breaks; and,
WHEREAS, through thoughtful and effective leadership, Regent Pechous has represented his 24,000 fellow Huskers to the best of his ability;

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

Regent Stark presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Katie Schultis has served as a member of the Board of Regents and President of the University of Nebraska Medical Center Student Senate during the 2023-2024 term; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Schultis represented herself, her institution, and her 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 University system; and,

WHEREAS, during her time as a student at UNMC, Regent Schultis has held multiple campus leadership roles beyond Student Body President/Regent while balancing the demands of medical school, including serving as a public advocate for the University in person and on multiple media platforms; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Schultis spearheaded a renaissance of school spirit at UNMC, leading initiatives to create an official UNMC mascot (Go Labs!) and school fight song; and,

WHEREAS, the UNMC Student Senate, under her leadership, hosted several college-specific town halls, including the first town hall with the College of Allied Health Professions, to identify common student issues, that the senate worked and continues to work with administration to address; and,

WHEREAS, the UNMC Student Senate, under her leadership, hosted more than 20 student events to foster interdisciplinary interactions and community, and helped fund 22 student organization initiatives and events through BOSS (Benefiting Organizations through Student Senate) proposals; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Schultis is herself a shining example of the talent that can be mined through our University’s rural opportunities programs, having come from rural Nebraska, matriculated to the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and then to UNMC through its Kearney Health Opportunities Program or KHOP; she has presented to our Board on rural healthcare and on rural health education tracks; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Schultis served on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, playing a key role setting the course of our University’s future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents expresses its sincere appreciation for Regent Katie Schultis’ dedicated service and effective leadership as a member of the Board and wishes her success in all of her future endeavors.
Regent Weitz presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Hakim Lotoro has conscientiously served as a member of the Board of Regents and as President of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Government Association for the 2023-2024 term; and,

WHEREAS, during his time as a student at UNO, Regent Lotoro has made it a priority to engage with students from diverse backgrounds, helping to create an environment of shared governance; and,

WHEREAS, in his leadership role as a member of the Board of Regents, Lotoro has formed impactful relationships with his fellow students; and,

WHEREAS, Regent Lotoro, as President, challenged the status quo and elevated valuable insights he gained from his conversations with students to University leadership; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure, he has taken decisive actions, listened to the concerns of others, and leverage community and campus resources to support various stakeholders in navigating their collegiate experience; and,

WHEREAS, during his term as President, Regent Lotoro led UNO’s Student Government Association with confidence by having open conversations with his constituents and ensuring that all people on campus are heard and feel empowered to use their voice; and,

WHEREAS, through a commitment to inclusivity, advocacy, and the desire to make positive change, Regent Lotoro has made impactful strides in supporting the long-term success of UNO and its students, faculty, and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents thanks Regent Hakim Lotoro for his time and service to the University of Nebraska and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

Regent Kenney presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Doug Kristensen has served as chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Kearney for 22 years, making him the longest-serving chancellor in the history of the University of Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Kristensen came to UNK following a distinguished tenure in the Nebraska Legislature, including service as Speaker, and was among the leaders of the successful legislative effort to bring UNK into the University system; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Kristensen is a passionate champion for the value of affordable, quality higher education and the vital role the University of Nebraska plays in the growth and success of the state, particularly our rural communities; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Kristensen has overseen a dramatic renewal of the UNK campus, including working with University, public, and private partners to develop what will be the largest rural health education center in the country, to be fittingly named in his honor, a transformational initiative that will impact the rural healthcare workforce and quality of life for generations to come; and,
WHEREAS, UNK has experienced significant additional facility upgrades under Chancellor Kristensen’s leadership, including University Village, student housing, the Plambeck Early Childhood Center, athletics investments, the STEM education building, student union and dining facilities, the library, and many more; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Kristensen has made it a priority from Day 1 to build strong relationships across UNK and the broader Kearney community and is a well-known and respected leader among students, faculty, staff, and community members alike; and,

WHEREAS, as an alum and lifelong Nebraskan, Chancellor Kristensen “walks the walk” when it comes to the mission and values of the University of Nebraska, having sent both his daughters to the University for a combined five degrees including degrees from every campus in the University system; and,

WHEREAS, both the University of Nebraska and the State of Nebraska have benefited greatly from the leadership, service, and commitment of Chancellor Kristensen and his family;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents extends its deepest gratitude to Chancellor Kristensen for a lifetime of devoted public service to the State of Nebraska and wishes him, Terri, and their family all the best in their next chapter.

Regent Schafer presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Phil Bakken has served the University of Nebraska for nearly a decade, starting as industry relations coordinator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and now as chief of staff and corporation secretary in the Office of the President; and,

WHEREAS, Phil possesses a work ethic, a relentless willpower to get things done, and standards of integrity that are virtually unmatched; and,

WHEREAS, Phil’s encyclopedic knowledge of University policies and history, his intricate understanding of organizational structures, his photographic memory, and his keen ability to use facts and data to drive decisions and change at the highest levels of the University, have been instrumental in the successful tenures of multiple Presidents; and,

WHEREAS, Phil has been a behind-the-scenes but essential player behind almost every major initiative to come out of the President’s Office over the last decade, never seeking credit or recognition but using his singular gifts as both a tactician and visionary to move the University to a higher level of efficiency, excellence, and competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, Phil brings a whole new meaning to the phrase “other duties as assigned,” as his Varner Hall colleagues have benefited from his extensive skills not only as an executive but also as a handyman, office interior designer, bargain furniture shopper, IT specialist, kitchenette assemblyman, and “fixit guy” in every possible sense of the word; and,

WHEREAS, when everyone says something can’t be done, Phil personally finds a way to prove that it can, in fact, be done; and,
WHEREAS, Phil will leave a lasting impact on the University of Nebraska, benefiting students, faculty, staff, and the institution for many years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents expresses its deepest gratitude to Phil Bakken for his selfless service to the University of Nebraska, the Board of Regents, and our state, and wishes him every success in his next adventure at the University of Pittsburgh.

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

VII. HEARINGS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Begley addressed the Board regarding the Medical Center.

Betty Gillespie addressed the Board regarding the UNMC residence hall project.

Frank Delincheck addressed the Board regarding the Carpenters Union.

The Board recessed at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 10:40 a.m.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Interim President Kabourek shared an update on implementation of the University of Nebraska’s Five-Point Plan.

X. UNIVERSITY CONSENT AGENDA

Motion
Moved by Kenney and seconded by Clare to approve all Consent items.

A. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

X-A-1 President’s Personnel Recommendations.

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

X-B-1 Approval of replacement of Baker & Associates, Inc. with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. on the four-year architectural and engineering firms (A/E) term contracts list for May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2026.

Action

XI. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

A. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Motion  Moved by Weitz and seconded by Scheer to approve items XI-A-1 through XI-A-5.

XI-A-1 Approval to establish the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Media Studies Comprehensive to be administered by the Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNK.

XI-A-2 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Journalism to the proposed BS in Media Studies Comprehensive at UNK.

XI-A-3 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Advertising and Public Relations to the proposed BS in Media Studies Comprehensive at UNK.

XI-A-4 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sports Communications to the proposed BS in Media Studies Comprehensive at UNK.

XI-A-5 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Multimedia to the proposed BS in Media Studies Comprehensive at UNK.


Motion  Moved by Clare and seconded by Wilmot to approve item XI-A-6.

XI-A-6 Approval to transition the Doctor of Juridical Sciences (JSD) in Space Law in the College of Law at UNL.


Motion  Moved by Kenney and seconded by Stark to approve items XI-A-7 through XI-A-8.

XI-A-7 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Applied Climate Science to the Climate Science option within the BS in Environmental Studies offered by the School of Natural Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL.

XI-A-8 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Water Science to the Water Science option within the BS in Environmental Studies offered by the School of Natural Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural resources at UNL.


Motion  Moved by Scheer and seconded by Clare to approve item XI-A-9.

XI-A-9 Approval to transition the Master of Science (MS) in Veterinary Science to a specialization within the MS in Applied Science offered by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL.

Motion Moved by Kenney and seconded by Weitz to approve item XI-A-10.

XI-A-10 Approval to eliminate the National Center for Research in Economic Education administered by the College of Business at UNL.


Motion Moved by Scheer and seconded by Clare to approve item XI-A-11.

XI-A-11 Approval to transition the Certificate Program in Community Oriented Primary Care offered by the College of Public Health at UNMC.


Motion Moved by Wilmot and seconded by Scheer to approve item XI-A-12.

XI-A-12 Approval to transition the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Medicine administered by the Colleges of Medicine and Allied Health Professions at UNMC.


Motion Moved by Lotoro and seconded by Schultis to approve items XI-A-13 through XI-A-18.

XI-A-13 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.

XI-A-14 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Cancer Research to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.

XI-A-15 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Cellular and Integrative Physiology to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.

XI-A-16 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Genetics, Cell Biology, and Anatomy to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.

XI-A-17 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pathology and Microbiology to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.

XI-A-18 Approval to transition the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGBPS) offered through Graduate Studies at UNMC.
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Action  

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Motion  
Moved by Clare and seconded by Scheer to approve item XI-B-1.

XI-B-1  
Authorization of Phase 2 Design Services from HDR for the Memorial Stadium Renovation Project.

Action  

Motion  
Moved by Kenney and seconded by Clare to approve item XI-B-2.

XI-B-2  
Approval to permit alcohol sales at Haymarket Park for University events.

Action  

Motion  
Moved by Clare and seconded by Wilmot to approve item XI-B-3.

XI-B-3  
Approval to name the Go Big Facility the “Osborne Legacy Complex” after Tom Osborne.

Action  

Motion  
Moved by Kenney and seconded by Scheer to approve item XI-B-4.

XI-B-4  
Approval of budget increase and acceptance of private donation for the Architecture Complex Phase 2 Renovation at UNL.

Action  

Motion  
Moved by Clare and seconded by Lotoro to approve item XI-B-5.

XI-B-5  
Approval to name the new wing on the north side of Architecture Hall the “HDR Pavilion” at UNL.

Action  

Motion  
Moved by Stark and seconded by Wilmot to approve item XI-B-6.

XI-B-6  
Approval of the amended and restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Sarpy County for the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at UNMC.

Action  
Motion

Moved by Lotoro and seconded by Scheer to approve item XI-B-7.

XI-B-7

Approval of first amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Omaha relating to Project Health.

Action


Motion

Moved by Scheer and seconded by Pechous to approve item XI-B-8.

XI-B-8

Approval of ground lease with Koelbel & Co. and GreenSlate for development of a parking garage at UNMC.

Action


Motion

Moved by Stark and seconded by Schultis to approve item XI-B-9.

XI-B-9

Approval of funding allocation for project planning phase of Project Health.

Action


Motion

Moved by Scheer and seconded by Schultis to approve item XI-B-10.

XI-B-10

Approval of standard Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract for the Campus Operations and Research Excellence (CORE) Building at UNMC.

Action


Motion

Moved by Schultis and seconded by Scheer to approve item XI-B-11.

XI-B-11

Approval of Program Statement for the Residence Hall project at UNMC.

Action


Motion

Moved by Stark and seconded by Kenney to approve item XI-B-12.

XI-B-12

Approval to name the Ice Rank at Baxter Arena the “Michael Kemp Ice Rink” at UNO and waiver of the restriction on naming in honor of a current University employee as set forth in Regents Policy 6.2.7(4)(b).

Action


C. REPORTS

XI-C-1

Report on renaming the UNO Center for Afghanistan Studies to the UNO Center for Afghanistan and Regional Studies in the International Programs Department.
XI-C-2 Report on renaming the Master of Science (MS) in Genetics, Cell Biology, and Anatomy to the MS in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at UNMC.

XI-C-3 Report on renaming the Master of Science (MS) in Pathology and Microbiology to the MS in Immunology, Pathology, and Infectious Diseases at UNMC.

XI-C-4 Report on dissolution of the joint Juris Doctorate (JD)-Master of Public Health (MPH) offering at UNL and UNMC.


XI-C-6 Report on naming the outdoor space west of the Arts and Sciences Building the “Bowen Family Student Patio” at UNO.

XI-C-7 Report on Bids and Contracts.

XI-C-8 Report on Gifts, Grants, Contracts, and Bequests.

XI-C-9 Quarterly Report on Capital Construction.


Chair Schafer accepted the reports on behalf of the Board.

The Board recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 12:28 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion Moved by Wilmot and seconded by Weitz that the Board go into closed session as authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1410 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska 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 subjects:
- Confidential personnel matters involving the search and selection of the President of the University of Nebraska; and
- Personnel matters involving members of the university staff.


Chair Schafer 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; and
- Personnel matters involving members of the university staff.

The Board went into closed session at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 12:58 p.m.
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Schafer at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip J. Bakken  Robert M. Schafer
Corporation Secretary  Chair of the Board
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 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. 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.

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 System.

Dated: April 12, 2024

Philip J. Bakken, Corporation Secretary
Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska

NOTE: The April 19 Board agenda will not include consideration of the appointment of Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., as president of the University of Nebraska. Dr. Gold is currently undergoing the statutorily required 30-day public vetting period. The Board cannot consider Dr. Gold’s appointment until after the 30-day vetting period concludes. Thus, the Board may convene a meeting to consider Dr. Gold’s appointment on or after April 20.