



The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

April 2007

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A report of the April 2007 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.



Students from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis visited the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus and talked with University of Nebraska Regent Jim McClurg (left), and University President James. B. Milliken.

Regents talk with NCTA students about college

Students who attend the two-year Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis had lunch with University of Nebraska Board of Regents members on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during the noon break for the Regents' April meeting.

"We wanted NCTA students who are interested in continuing their studies to seriously consider the Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and to experience first-hand the welcoming environment on campus," said University President James B. Milliken. "I believe NCTA holds the keys for doing great things for Nebraska's rural economy."

At the Regents meeting, NCTA Dean Weldon Sleight gave the Regents an update on the College: a small, thriving NU campus in Curtis, Nebraska, with 272 students - 25 percent more than just two years ago.

During the campus visit in Lincoln, NCTA students received a primer – tours, advice and information sessions – about student life, benefits and opportunities of coming to school at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) on the UNL East Campus.

Milliken initiated the concept of the student visit to encourage NCTA students who are interested in further education to become familiar with CASNR and consider completing their baccalaureate degrees at UNL – or at any of the four NU undergraduate campuses.

BOR approves renovation projects for UNL's East Campus

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved two projects for significant renovation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus:

- The Animal Science Complex project will upgrade heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems, address fire and safety needs, and fund deferred maintenance issues.
- Keim Hall, which houses the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, will undergo major maintenance work.

News briefs

John Wiltse, Senior Associate General Counsel for the University, provided an update regarding illegal downloading complaints from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The Board of Regents accepted donations to fund construction and operation of the **Holland Computing Center**, a new computing and data center at the Peter Kiewit Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Board approved two new degrees at the University of Nebraska at Omaha:

- **A Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language**, a restructured and consolidated major to replace the existing B.A. degree in the individual languages of French, German and Spanish, a response to the increasing need for a multilingual and a multiculturally competent workforce and citizenry.
- **A Graduate Certificate Program in Global Information Operations**, designed to address the growing need for a broad-based understanding of international religions, communication, politics, security and related issues.

Supporting entrepreneurship fits into NU's strategic plan

Improving entrepreneurship education, training, support and outreach fits directly into the strategic framework approved by the University's Board of Regents, said Pete Kotsiopoulos, the University's Vice President for University Affairs, in a presentation on entrepreneurship at the Board's April meeting.

He explained that when the University serves as a catalyst for beginning businesses, the work corresponds with the Regents' strategic goal of building a talented, competitive workforce and knowledge-based economy in Nebraska.

"Economic growth in our state isn't going to come from Toyota plants, it's going to come from entrepreneurs," Regent Chair Charles Wilson said.

Regent Howard Hawks agreed about the importance of building an increasingly strong entrepreneurial economy in the state: "We need to provide greater opportunities for people trying to start businesses."

In a related session, a group of Nebraska entrepreneurs addressed the Board to explain how the University had played a critical role in helping them develop grassroots businesses.

"I don't think it would be possible for us to do what we do, without the help and the students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney," according to Dan Shundoff, President and CEO of IntelliCom Computer Consulting in Kearney.

Wilson pointed out the number of jobs created by successful entrepreneurs who have been nurtured by the University. "And then consider the millions and millions of dollars those jobs bring into our state."

A moment of silence: The University of Nebraska Board of Regents members joined the entire country at their April Board meeting to observe a moment of silence to honor and remember the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech on the Official Day of Mourning April 20th.