



# The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

June, 2007

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*A report of the June 2007 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.*

## University Board of Regents approves tuition increase that still provides degree at 'extraordinary bargain'

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents in June approved a 6 percent tuition increase for the 2007-08 school year: five percent for mandatory expenses including competitive faculty salaries, utilities and maintenance, plus a 1 percent assessment necessary to provide matching funds for NU building renovations authorized by LB 605.

"We are still a very good deal for our students," Regent Jim McClurg stressed. "For a degree that will cost you about \$5,000 a year, we can help you earn another \$1 million in your lifetime."

The tuition increase is 25 percent less than the accountability goal set in the NU Strategic Framework, which proposed to limit the tuition increase to no more than 8 percent. Additionally, last year a similar tuition hike fell below increases at comparable institutions, and the tuition rates at NU campuses remained competitive and considerably below averages at campus peers.

University President James B. Milliken specifically noted increases in need-based aid and continuing commitment to provide access for a broader group of students. "This tuition increase is not perfect; it's higher than I'd like," he said. "But the University of Nebraska is still an extraordinary bargain."

### Increases in need-based aid

The tuition increase will have zero impact on University of Nebraska students who are eligible for Pell grants, University President James B. Milliken pointed out. He noted progress in need-based aid in the coming year:

- ◆ Congress passed legislation that increases the **Pell Grant** award to \$4,310 for each eligible student, a six percent increase of \$260.
- ◆ The University will receive more funding due to the State Legislature increasing support for **need-based financial aid** in Nebraska by \$1 million a year.
- ◆ The University will increase the 2007-08 funding for the **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**, a college financing commitment between the University of Nebraska and low-income youth that covers tuition through grants in aid for resident Pell-eligible students who maintain certain academic standards.

| Campus                   | 2006-07<br>Resident Undergrads | 2007-08<br>Resident Undergrads | Change<br>in rate |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| UNL                      | \$160.00                       | \$169.50                       | \$9.50            |
| UNO                      | \$146.00                       | \$154.75                       | \$8.75            |
| UNK                      | \$129.50                       | \$137.25                       | \$7.75            |
| NE College<br>of Tech Ag | \$87.75                        | \$92.25                        | \$4.50            |

## Creating a Culture of Excellent Teaching at the University of Nebraska

Faculty from all four University of Nebraska campuses took a moment at the Board of Regents June meeting to share methods and philosophies for creating a culture of excellence in teaching and creating a positive learning environment. Their presentations included information about professional staff development, making connections with students, developing effective teaching methods and more.

“The first priority of our University is teaching, and I can’t emphasize enough the importance of this issue,” Regent Chairman Charles Wilson said.

The faculty presenters were: Joy Ritchie, Chairperson, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Peter Longo, Chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Dan Wheeler, Department Head, Ag Leadership, Education and Communications, UNL/Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Kyle Meyer, Associate Professor, Allied Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center; and Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Director, School of Social Work, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

## Regents support proposals for capital improvement projects

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has approved plans for capital improvement projects at many campuses, including:

- Renovation of the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s (UNMC) College of Dentistry, located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) East Campus.
- An update and renovation of the 85-year-old Whittier Building near the UNL campus, to operate a modern research laboratory, office and child care facility for use by UNL faculty, staff and students. The child care facility is expected to open the fall of 2009.



*Whittier Building*

- Expansion and renovation of the facility for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and Student Health at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
- A real estate purchase and transfer to acquire about 10 acres of Omaha Public Power District property adjacent to the southwest edge of the UNMC campus.

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## New degrees approved at NU

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved two new degrees:

- A new **Bachelor of Science in Information Assurance** at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a new interdisciplinary undergraduate major that addresses this rapidly expanding field dealing with the design, development, implementation and life cycle support of secure information systems.
- A new **Master of Laws (LL.M.) with a focus in Space and Telecommunications Law** in the College of Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. No American law school offers an LL.M. degree in either space law or telecommunications, so this degree should be in high demand and provide UNL the opportunity to become the premier American program in this area.

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## News briefs

The Board of Regents has named the new University of Nebraska at Kearney residence hall the **William R. Nester Hall** to honor Nester, a former UNK Chancellor and Kearney State College President.

The Board approved a contract for the **University of Nebraska Medical Center** to support the professional training of dental students from the University of Wyoming.