



The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

June 2008

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A report of the June 2008 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Regents approve ‘moderate, predictable’ tuition increase

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents in June approved a 6 percent tuition increase for the 2008-09 school year. The increase – which includes five percent to help fund mandatory expenses such as faculty salaries, utilities and maintenance, plus a 1 percent assessment to provide matching funds for NU building renovations authorized by the State Legislature – marks the fourth consecutive year of tuition increases at 6 percent or less.

“We are committed to keeping tuition increases moderate and predictable,” said NU President James B. Milliken. “Affordable access to high quality education is our highest priority, and this increase allows us to balance our goals of providing both access and quality.”

Milliken stressed that tuition on all campuses remains competitive, in fact, substantially below the average of peer institutions. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has the second-lowest tuition rate of its peer institutions, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney has the lowest of its peers.

“I feel very good about the potential return on the dollar for tuition at this university,” Regent Jim McClurg said, noting the increased earning potential of college graduates.

Significant steps underway to improve financial aid for NU students

University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken points out:

- More than 40 percent of university students receive some amount of financial aid.
- The university is adding \$500,000 to the Tuition Assistance Program to provide need-based financial aid to more middle class Nebraska families.
- The university is raising private funds for financial aid.

Comprehensive review of capital construction presented

The first phase of a review of the University of Nebraska’s capital construction and facilities design policies, processes and practices was presented to the Board of Regents in June. Arizona consultant Bob Williams, a seasoned construction expert, conducted the comprehensive review at the direction of NU President James B. Milliken. Williams was asked to evaluate current policies and procedures, and to make recommendations for any changes that are needed to ensure that the university is using the most effective and appropriate procedures for capital construction.

Williams consulted with more than 65 individuals, including Regents, university staff and administrators, representatives of appropriate state offices, and contractors and architects. His recommendations include the development of a more clearly defined process for the construction of new facilities, and the refinement of university policies and processes related to the procurement of professional and construction services.

“This is good work, a lot of helpful and good ideas,” said Regent Howard Hawks.

Biennial proposals approved

The biennial budget request and capital construction budget request for 2009-2011 has been approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The biennial request must be submitted to the governor by September, 2008.

The Regents identified the highest priority capital project as the University of Nebraska Medical Center's new College of Nursing Building for the College's Lincoln Division. The State Legislature already has approved money to fund construction plans for the new Nursing Building, which will provide space to expand the College's educational offerings and address emerging student demands, research and the state's workforce needs. Statistics indicate that Nebraska's nursing shortage will jump from 9 percent in 2002 to 30 percent in 2020.

BOR passes State Fair resolution

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents unanimously passed a resolution in June affirming its commitment to the Nebraska Innovation Campus to be located at the current State Fair Park site in Lincoln. The new innovation campus would provide space for public-private partnerships, allowing private businesses to access faculty research in the development of marketable innovations.

The BOR resolution came in response to a petition drive proposing repeal of legislation that would move the State Fair from Lincoln to Grand Island. The resolution noted that the law was passed after several years of thoughtful work that included public hearings and a legislative study. In response to requests for the resolution, you can find it at the following link: <http://www.nebraska.edu/board/policy-resolutions/221-policy-resolutions/1278-innovation-campus-referendum.html>.

News briefs

- The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has approved a 13-year contract with sports marketing firm IMG College that will bring in a guaranteed \$109.7 million to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's athletic department, but is projected to garner \$112.5 million. "We are extremely pleased with the Board's approval," said UNL Athletic Director Tom Osborne. "This contract provides a solid financial base for the athletic department through 2021."
- The Regents approved the creation of several new programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center:
 - A Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program, targeted at qualified students from underrepresented groups, including those from rural areas and educational or economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
 - New Doctor of Philosophy graduate programs for the College of Public Health in: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research; and Health Services Research, Administration and Policy.
- Regents heard a presentation on proposed accountability measures for evaluating progress of entrepreneurship programs at the university. Measures include: Training hours invested by entrepreneurship program participants; number of clients assisted by university entrepreneurship programs; SBIR/SSTR applications and awards; dollars invested in NU-assisted companies; and NU-assisted business startups and transitions. "I am impressed with the extent of entrepreneurial activity going on at the university," Regent Chuck Wilson said.

Regents bestow new names on UNL program, UNO facility

- Regents have renamed the J.D. Edwards Honors Program in Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management, in honor of a gift from the Raikes Foundation. The world-class program aims to develop entrepreneurial leadership for information technology dependent businesses.
- Regents named the new College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Mammel Hall, in honor of Carl and Joyce Mammel.