

Summary of meeting with NU President Ted Carter

June 20, 2022

Attendees: Ed Carter, Phil Bakken (his chief of staff), Pat Crews, Kim Hachiya, Linda Major, Nancy Mitchell, Don Weeks, Earl Hawkey, Doug Jose, Alfred Stark

Approved by ERA BOD 09.08.2022

1. Carter said that while UNL is considered the flagship of the system, he views the system more holistically. He said he views UNCA as serving the four campuses. Said there has been some centralizing of operations but also decentralizing as needed.
2. He outlined some of the university's responses to COVID, starting in Spring 2020 Announced determination to open fully in the fall 2020 (accomplished), developed testing and other protocols, modified academic calendar, reduced tuition of online courses, implemented a series of budget cuts and staffing cuts, centralized some services, rebranded Nebraska Promise, froze tuition.
3. Pushing to implement a four-year time-to-completion if appropriate by discipline
4. His goal is 60K student enrollment.
 - growth in non-residents and first-gens
 - looking at how the decline in international students affects NU
 - national enrollment trends are down 10 percent
 - New recruitment focus: adults with some college credit but did not complete degrees; how to reach them.
 - Important to focus on retention of students year over year
 - Push keep our graduates in Nebraska
 - "laser focus on paid internships"
5. Said Covid forced higher ed to pivot but it was an accelerant not the sole reason driving change.
6. Said he leads by leaning on chancellors to do their jobs.
7. Said he favors expanded experiential learning, internships and other hands on opportunities; he stressed that the word "paid" is important for internships.
8. Talked about how a legislative proposal, LB384, passed in the spring would help NU address \$800M in deferred maintenance of the 1,000 buildings NU has systemwide. State-aided portion funds \$13.5M annually through 2062 and then allows NU to let \$400M in bonds. Said this will allow NU to fully address its deferred maintenance backlog within 10 years.
9. He praised NU's "exceptional innovative" spirit, citing examples like coming up with and implementing a covid testing plan. Noted that in 2020, 70 percent of NU classes were live but in the BIG, the average was 30 percent.

10. Carter talked about how “Circles of Influence” are important and that emeriti, retirees and alumni are important influencers and ambassadors. “We are all problem solvers.”

11. Miscellaneous:

Said he was pleased with preservation of academic freedom following some attempts to reduce it in summer 2021

Said Husker Athletics was in good shape financially