

August 13, 2009

Dr. John Bender
345 ANDN
UNL (0474)

Dear Dr. Bender,

I have received your letter with the recommendations of the Academic Planning Committee concerning the first set of budget reduction proposals on which the committee held hearings last month. I want first to thank you and the APC for the thoroughness and thoughtfulness with which the committee has approached this process. I have appreciated the APC's comments and the openness of our discussions throughout the budget process.

Your letter to me indicates that the APC has accepted all of the proposed budget reductions that you have reviewed so far and you do not recommend any changes. Thus, as we discussed via email yesterday, because we have no disagreement on the proposals, we have agreed to waive a follow-up meeting as set out in Phase Three of the UNL Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions. With this letter, I am notifying you that I will now finalize the reductions with which you have thus far concurred.

Nevertheless, I would like to address a couple of the comments in your letter about the reductions. First, I agree that the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center plays an important role on campus. My decision to eliminate state funds from the Ross is based on my firm belief that the Ross does have opportunities both to find efficiencies in its operations and to raise funds that it has not fully exploited. Nor am I convinced that it has exploited the full range of opportunities it has to participate in the core of the academic enterprise. I plan to encourage a meeting this Fall between Deans and others on campus to explore ways in which we can further take advantage of these opportunities.

Second, I just want to reassure you concerning the issue of unlservice. Although we continue to explore our email options at the University, I am now more informed about the necessity of retaining unlservice for our research enterprise as an alternative to Lotus Notes. I appreciate the information that I have been provided about this issue. I am also benefited by now having Mark Askren as our CIO who can help me evaluate issues with respect to technology.

Again, thank you for your hard work and that of the APC on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Harvey Perlman
Chancellor

c: Academic Planning Committee