

May 19, 2011

Jennifer I. Brand
Chair of the Academic Planning Committee and
Professor of Engineering Research Center
College of Engineering
245N SEC
City 0511

Dear Jennifer:

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2011 outlining APC's recommendations regarding the proposed budget reductions for FY2012. I sincerely appreciate the Committee's thoughtful deliberations.

As you summarized, the APC adopted the majority of the proposed budget reductions without further comment, supported the adoption of two reductions with recommended monitoring, reluctantly supported the adoption of two reductions with substantial comments, and did not support one proposed budget reduction.

In summary, I accept all APC's recommendations as stated. My specific responses to your comments are as follows:

Business and Finance, Mailing Services

- Reduce on-campus delivery from five times a week (Monday-Friday) to an alternating day schedule which will eliminate 1.00 FTE vacant office/service staff position [\$36,889]

I, like you, also understand that particular departments do a great deal of business through mailing services and that this particular reduction could cause disruptions. We have indicated that mail can be picked up at the mailing services location and hope for those truly needing mail daily will take advantage of this service. I understand and share your concern that the duty for such work could be shifted to a support staff member. However, it is my belief that, over time, the perceived need for daily mail will subside and only select offices will participate in this service. But, by copy of this note, I ask VC Jackson to have her staff periodically evaluate this reduction and to report to me if unforeseen inefficiencies are created.

FMP – Custodial Services

- Reduce stairway cleaning from five times a week to twice a week. FMP will reduce the amount of sand/grit applied during the winter season, especially within 30 feet of building entrances to minimize the sand/grit tracked into UNL's buildings and into the campus stairways [\$165,525]

Statistics on falls and other accidents are aggressively tracked and monitored by Business and Finance. While I am doubtful this action will result in increased accidents in UNL buildings, I am confident that our current systems will reveal such events if they begin occurring. By copy of this note, I ask VC Jackson to continue to monitor these statistics for discernible changes due to this reduction.

Academic Affairs, College of Education and Human Sciences

- Eliminate undergraduate teacher certification program in K-12 Art Education which will eliminate 1.00 FTE lecturer position [\$27,103]

I share your concern that the reduction of this program will result in a noticeable impact on the students, educators, and the public. While these types of reductions are very difficult, many similar programs do exist in Nebraska and core programs in CEHS are being protected.

College of Engineering

- Eliminate the Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering (IMSE), 1.00 FTE untenured faculty position, the undergraduate major, the MS program, and the Ph.D. specialization [\$98,337]

I appreciate your support of this reduction and your desire to see the IMSE faculty properly positioned within the College and the academic curriculum preserved. I concur that this discipline has value in Nebraska and provides students with marketable skills. Please know I am committed to the tenured IMSE faculty transitioning to tenure homes elsewhere within the University of Nebraska and assisting current students to complete their current programs within a reasonable timeline. Moreover, I agree that Industrial Engineering has a place, in some configuration, in our academic curriculum. To this end, I ask that SVCAA Weissinger, Dean Wei, and the faculty work together to explore opportunities to deliver this academic curriculum at UNL, within existing resources.

Academic Affairs, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

- Eliminate the Study of Organ in the School of Music and termination on 1.00 FTE pre-tenured faculty member [\$68,480]

This is the one recommendation that was not supported by the APC. I understand your concern about this being core to the College's program. I think reasonable people can disagree on how central the study of organ is to a music program. And I suspect that any termination of faculty members may have an effect on faculty recruitment. However, continued budget reductions will inevitably lead to the need to reduce programs and their faculty. Nonetheless, on

reflection, I have decided to defer to your judgment on the matter. These are very difficult issues and the considered judgment of faculty should be an important aspect of our process. I will immediately reinstate the tenure process for the one faculty member implicated and remove this item from our list. We will ask the College of Fine and Performing Arts to propose an alternative reduction in its budget for consideration during the next round of reductions.

Thank you for your efforts. Please accept my sincere appreciation and admiration for your tremendous service to this university.

Sincerely,



Harvey Perlman
Chancellor

c: Academic Planning Committee
Senior Vice Chancellor Weissinger
Vice Chancellor Green
Vice Chancellor Paul
Vice Chancellor Jackson
Vice Chancellor Franco
William J. Nunez