

May 22, 2004

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 22, 2004

SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

Notice was given in accordance with subsection (5) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska held a special emergency meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 22, 2004. Most Regents attended in person, while one Regent participated by telephone. Said telephone conference originated from the Board Room, Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The nature of the emergency for the business of this emergency meeting was to allow the Board of Regents to appoint in a timely manner the next President of the University of Nebraska.

In compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 84-1411, printed notice of this meeting was sent to each member of the Board and was posted in the first floor lobby of Varner Hall. In addition, copies of such notice were sent to the Lincoln Journal Star, Daily Nebraskan, The Gateway, The Antelope, Kearney Hub, Omaha World-Herald, and the Lincoln office of the Associated Press on May 20, 2004.

Regents present:
Don S. Blank, Chairman
Brett Chloupek
Jonathan Croskey

Jtim McClurgn

Katiea ~~W~~chim(an)TJT0.0006 Tc-0.0006 Tw[Chrlies S. Wilrso

Regents participating by telephon:e

Jhn Owens(, fice President and fice Chancallry forAgriculature andNnatunalResJouces)TJ10.62

May 22, 2004

May 22, 2004

CHAIRMAN BLANK MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTER THE VOTE:

I want to make a comment on the significance of the vote that we have just taken. There are those who have said that our desire for a unanimous vote was a hindrance or detriment to our selection of the next president. We had four very talented candidates forwarded to us by the search committee and it's not surprising that individuals regents would differ as to which would make the best president. But we have a board this morning who have selected an outstanding individual to be our next president and our unanimous vote says very loud and very clear that the search is behind us, the interviews are behind us, the discussions are behind us, and we are a board now standing unanimous and united behind our newly elected president. We are going to work hand in hand with him to make the University of Nebraska the finest teaching university, the finest research university, and the finest outreach and service institution that it can possibly be. That is the significance of our unanimous vote this morning.

May 22, 2004

university won't suffer in the days ahead because the Regents did this business in public. The public saw the seriousness of purpose, the sense of commitment by members of the Board, and the difficulty of making a decision of this magnitude. I hope after today that we all move on to the very serious business at hand.

The University of Nebraska has a rich and wonderful history. By the end of the 19th century, it was the home to leaders in the sciences, literature, art, and the law. Names like Bessey, Cather, Pound. It was one of the four great western universities with Michigan, Wisconsin, and Berkeley. Pretty good company. Today on four campuses, each with its own excellent programs, and its own very important role to play in the state of Nebraska, the university is no less important to the state. As I said many times last week, the importance of the University of Nebraska to the state can not be overestimated. Their fates are intertwined. One does not succeed without the other.

Great public universities are special places. They represent the best that the state has to offer. They exist to serve the state and the nation. They serve cities and rural areas. They provide educational and economic opportunity. They benefit agriculture, business, the arts, and the health of our citizens. But as times change, universities adapt and the University of Nebraska is no exception. As Robert Knoll said at the very end of his marvelous book, Prairie University, "In a competitive world where intellectual skills were in both practical and ideal demand, the future shape of higher education would be wonderful to observe. Opportunities in Nebraska had not yet been exhausted." I couldn't agree more.

I thank the Board of Regents for the opportunity to help lead this great university. I am honored and humbled, but I'm also excited and energized by the challenge. I look forward to working with the Board, the Chancellors, my colleagues throughout the University of Nebraska, but even more I look forward to sharing our excitement, our purpose, our aspirations, with the people of Nebraska, so that all of us can share a vision of a four campus University of Nebraska – a home of excellent teaching, research and scholarship, outreach, engagement, and health care that serves the people of this great state.

Chairman Blank announced that a press conference was to be held at 9:30 a.m.

VI.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon completion of the business stated in the notice for the emergency meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donal J. Burns
Acting Corporation Secretary

Don S. Blank
Chairman of the Board