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January 2005

### Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2005

Jack Botts

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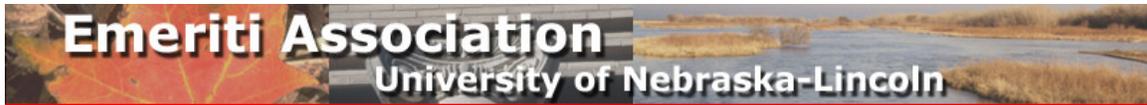
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**Thursday, January 20, 2005  
UNL East Campus Union**

The immediate past president, Wilma Crumley, was absent because of illness, so the previous past president, William Splinter, introduced Don Edwards as the organization's new president.

Vice President and program chairman Irv Omtvedt introduced the day's speaker UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman, who presented a brief administrative update.

The chancellor said one of the constants at any university is the expression that "Morale has never been lower." Despite that, he said the faculty has never been prouder, and he listed several advancements that might justify administrative actions of the past three years: The university is stronger, he said, because its graduation rate is higher (60%), entering students have the highest ACT score average ever (24.8), 35% of undergraduates report significant research experience, and the institution has been awarded \$151 million in federal competitive research dollars. He listed several research projects, now under way or planned:

- A contract with Monsanto Corp. for biomedical engineering research.
- High energy physics research.
- Research into the effects of global warming on food production.
- The education of migrant students in a pilot study in reading in South Sioux City.
- A study for industry of the growing of chicory.
- A study of the winery industry in southeast Nebraska.
- A life science study of nutritional genomics.
- The digitization of literature in Love Library.

Chancellor Penman said the University's legislative outlook is better, with a recommendation from the outgoing and incoming governors for a 4.1% to 4.6 % budget increase. He said his priorities are:

1. To see the above recommendation through the legislature.
2. A deferred maintenance bonding project for new building.
3. State matching of private gifts for professorships.
4. Increase the amount of tobacco settlement money going into university studies.

His administrative goals, he said, are:

1. To initiate a strategic planning process, to get information from the colleges to allow administrators to devise plans to make things better.
2. Teaching initiatives. \$600,000 is available, he said. Over a hundred proposals have already been received from faculty.

3. He wants to study the configuration of the campus to learn how joint, interdisciplinary programs can work.
4. He wants to bring Whittier School "back on campus" as a part of the university. He said the former junior high school will need about \$15 million in repair work.

The chancellor said the university faces several major challenges:

1. Space is critical, he said, because no major building has been financed since the Beadle Center. The lack of economic development money, he said, limits the research base.
2. UN?L Enrollment declines, he said, because of the decline in the number of college-going high school students. One of his objectives is to attract students from out of state.
3. Costs to students. Nebraska requires more credit hours than most universities and he may look at such matters as adjusting tuition policies, weekend and evening class expansion, as well as what he called co-enrollment, in which the university would teach students in their high schools.

After the chancellor left, Irv Omtvedt summarized plans for upcoming meeting subjects:

February 17: The UN Foundation will lay out some of its big upcoming projects and report on recent gifts received for programs and facilities.

March 17: At the College of Dentistry, where members will receive an update and a tour. Parking will be on the west side.

The April meeting's subject will be the Antelope Valley Project.

The May meeting will be the annual president's luncheon.

In the business meeting members reported the recent death of Prof. Roberto Esquenazi Mayo (Modern Languages) in Rockville, Maryland, and honored his memory with a moment of silence.

Walt Mientka reported an organizational treasurer's balance of \$2013.95.

Standing committee chairmen were not present or had nothing to report.

For the ad hoc bylaws committee, Gwen Newkirk, urged members to think about whether the Emeriti Association should exist for all emeriti or only for those who pay dues.

For the ad hoc courtesy committee, Delivee Wright reminded all members to supply her with names of those emeriti who have turned 70.

Jim Kendrick reported that the organization will see the first draft of the new Emeriti Assn. web page in February. It was speculated that about 20% of emeriti do not have access to the Internet.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Botts, acting secretary