

October 2005

## Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2005

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

President Don Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.. He asked for self-introductions of those present. Vice President and Program Chair Irv Omtvedt introduced the speaker, Ted Weidner, UNL Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Management and Planning, whose topic was *“A Status Report and Overview of the Antelope Valley Project and its Impact on the UNL West Campus and the City of Lincoln.”*

The project is a partnership including the City of Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. In an earlier update, UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman said: “The Antelope Valley Project is a key to being able to make use of more land adjacent to the campus for the expansion of research facilities. The lack of laboratories for scientific research is limiting our ability to compete for large grants, which feed the Lincoln economy.”

In the review, distributed to Emeriti present at the meeting, Glenn Johnson, general manager of the Lower Platte NRD, said “The Antelope Valley Project will provide protection to the area of Lincoln at greatest risk from flooding from up to a 100-year flood.” It was also emphasized that the project will not only reduce the financial losses from flooding, but also eliminates the threat to safety and loss of life and enhances recreation and economic revitalization.

Several questions directed to the speaker related to the timetable for completing various phases of the overall project, and the effect of construction on vehicle travel in the area—how to get from Point A to Point B. A new bridge spans the now open channel of Salt Creek at 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Military Road, providing a new entrance to State Fair Park.

Weidner stressed that a huge overall benefit from the project, when completed, will be closing the campus to through traffic, now very heavy, especially on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets (about 30,000 vehicles a day). The elevated overpass spanning the railroad tracks south of the Devaney Center will eliminate two dangerous railroad crossings at North 14<sup>th</sup> and North 17<sup>th</sup> Streets. Eventually, a new roadway north of the BNSF railroad tracks and south of the Fairgrounds will carry vehicular traffic.

A new trail loop will connect five existing trails and provide access to downtown and the UNL campus. Weidner lauded the new 30-acre Fleming Fields Recreational Sports Park, which includes a playground and lighted softball and baseball fields.

Specific timetables for completion of various phases of the project are conjectural, he said. The first phase of the project now underway will take six to eight years to complete.

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President Edwards called the business session to order at 1:10 p.m. Memory moments were lifted up for deceased Emeriti Frank Dudek, Frances McCreight, Glen Sloan and James McGraw.

The minutes of the April 21, 2005 membership meeting were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's report: Walter Mientka—

- Maude Wisherd Fund: balance--\$54,966.83. Spendable earnings--\$32,290.92 (after three \$1,000 awards were made)
- Income: Jan. 1-Oct. 20, '05). \$3,209.90
- Expenses: total paid Jan. 1-Oct. 20, '05) \$2,618.31 (includes \$500 to open new UNL Emeriti Assn. Fund, used for the benefit and support of the UNL Emeriti Assn). Contributions to this fund are tax deductible.

New business:

To change the Association constitution and by-laws. Each of three proposals requires a 2/3 vote of the membership present to make changes.

1. Add to Constitution Article VI.1 and By-laws Article VI.2 the sentence: "*Absentee ballots shall be made available to members for use in the election of Association officers.*"

Approval moved by Franklin Eldridge, seconded by Dewaine Alcorn; show-of-hands vote, carried. Note of clarification: "It was the intent of the Board of Directors when submitting the proposal to the membership, to change the by-laws to permit absentee voting...that absentee voting would include other issues in addition to voting on officers/directors."

2. To change the status of the Courtesy ad hoc committee to Courtesy standing committee. Add *Courtesy* in by-laws Article VII. Approval moved by Ted Doane, seconded by Wilma Crumley, show-of-hands vote, carried.
3. To change the status of the On-Line Communications ad hoc committee to Website standing committee. Add *Website* in by-laws Article VII. Approval moved by Irv Omtvedt, seconded by Max Clegg. Show-of-hands vote, carried.

Standing committee reports:

Benefits—Francis Haskins. Current developments were summarized, and attention called to the November membership meeting which will center on Medicare and health

insurance issues. Note: A detailed summary by Haskins on health benefits is included in the minutes of the October 6 Emeriti board meeting, posted on the Emeriti Assn. website.

Maude Wisherd Fund—Chairman Lee Jones not present. See Committee Report on Association website.

Membership —Chairman Richard Boohar not present. See Committee Report on Association website.

Nominating committee—Ted Hartung. To be voted on at Nov. 17, 2005 Emeriti Assn. membership meeting: Vice president/president-elect/program chair: Howard Ottoson.

Co-secretaries: Dan Lutz and Anita Leininger. Treasurer: Walter Mientka. Director – 3-year term: Max Clegg. Jerry Petr and Delivee Wright continue on the board

Special note: It was clarified after the meeting by the board that the vice president/president elect office is not subject to voter approval after being named; that person will automatically assume that post for the new program year. The current president-elect, Irv Omtvedt, will assume the presidency. As in the past, the current president will remain on the board as immediate past president. (The Emeriti Assn. Website is now set up for absentee voting on officer and board candidates for all who will not be attending the November membership meeting).

Ad hoc committee reports:

Courtesy – Delivee Wright. She expressed concern regarding failure of Association members to report known situations with members beset with serious illness or accidents, which would warrant courtesy baskets. Birthdays warranting baskets also are not being reported. The board is discussing a broadened mission and purpose for this committee.

On-Line Communications – Jim Kendrick. Not present—See Website Committee Report on Association website.

Next program topic and presenter: November 17, East Campus Union: “The new Medicare Prescription Drug Program and Health Insurance Considerations,” by Mark Intermill, Association Director for Advocacy, AARP.

There being no further old, unfinished or new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Lutz, Secretary