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ABN Summer Tour Business Meeting

John Owens

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jowens2@unl.edu

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Talking Points
ABN Summer Tour Business Meeting
North Platte, NE
Thursday, July 9, 2009
John C. Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

1. Several things to update you on tonight, including the \$1 million in proposed budget cuts for IANR, the life sciences report that followed the review team's visit to campus in March, and we have a commitment for a new animal science department head I'm delighted to tell you about. I'm going to talk a bit about what we see as some of the major issues on the horizon for IANR in FY10, and I want to end with several of the many good news pieces we could share. Then we'll hope to have some time for questions and discussion.

2. First, the budget: This year the University of Nebraska system must cut over \$8 million. UNL's share of that is \$3.7 million, with \$1 million of that \$3.7 million coming from IANR, which is 27 percent of UNL's cut, as IANR took earlier this decade. In determining IANR's cuts, we looked first at administration and service units to see where cuts might be made. We did this specifically to buffer the University's designated core mission of teaching, which is followed by research and service. Our proposed cuts are:

- a. Eliminate an administrative position and restructure a portion of a position in IANR administration. We are combining leadership of payroll activities between city campus and IANR. (Cut: \$166,990)
- b. Eliminate 25 percent of ARD state funding for research technicians and technologists, allowing academic units up to two years to transfer this portion of funding to non-state funding sources. (Cut: \$487,915)
- c. Assess the Nebraska Forest Service a proportional state fund budget reduction equal to the percentage cut to IANR's state general fund of 1.2 percent. (Cut: \$18,101)
- d. Eliminate Extended Education and Outreach funding to IANR's component of the Norfolk Learning Center. (Cut: \$50,080)
- e. Eliminate state support for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, which is integrating with the Nebraska Forest Service and transitioning to become self-supporting. Elimination of 2.4 positions. (Cut: \$259,858)
- f. Eliminate a portion of a vacant staff writer position in Communications and Information Technology. (Cut: \$17,056)
- g. We are looking to where additional budget cuts can be made as there will be another budget cut next year, and there could be one even larger the year after when the stimulus money is gone and the state

reserve nearly depleted. We hope for an upturn in the economy to bring money into state coffers.

3. Life sciences report follow-up: The report by the molecular life sciences review team that visited the IANR campus in late March confirms IANR's areas of excellence as they relate to our molecular life sciences work, and added a few other areas in which the review team – and we – think IANR can achieve excellence and eminence at UNL. The areas they recommended are: bovine genomics/beef systems; nutrigenomics; food safety (*E. coli* 0157); stress biology/climate change/water; biomaterials/biosystems engineering; the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research; microbiology/virology; and the Gut Function Initiative. The review team affirmed the importance of universities identifying niches they can best fill, and build excellence there. Gratifying to see the good work of our scientists, strengths of our programs, and importance of multidisciplinary, cross-campus collaboration emphasized by the review team; it certainly is in keeping with our direction. We've taken swift action after receiving the report; the team noted three life sciences models they thought it beneficial to explore, and IANR representatives and colleagues from city campus have been to two of them, with the third to be visited later this month.

4. Great pleasure to tell you we have a commitment for a new animal science department head. Dr. Larry L. Berger, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois, will join us in mid-August as the Marvel L. Baker head of the Department of Animal Science. Dr. Berger's research emphasis has been in using protein and energy nutrition, and animal management techniques to improve the production efficiency of beef cattle. Optimizing the use of byproduct feeds for finishing cattle has been a point of emphasis. His research has received international recognition. He received his Ph.D. from Nebraska, and was a graduate research assistant here from 1975-1978. He has advised graduate students and generated over \$4 million from outside the University of Illinois, and he has authored or co-authored over 330 peer-reviewed journal articles, proceedings, bulletins, abstracts and book chapters.
 - a. Other new hires include Dr. Karla Jenkins, who will start soon at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, working on cow/calf systems and forage/grazing problems and opportunities. In October Dr. John Guretzky will join us in agronomy and horticulture as an assistant professor in grassland systems ecology.
 - b. Since 2008 we have made 14 new faculty hires in the more basic sciences.

5. Major issues on the horizon for IANR include:

- a. Implementing the recommendation from the life sciences review, and continuing our action plan process of taking current plans from inception to implementation
- b. Devising a model to stimulate interdisciplinary research, particularly in the molecular life sciences.
- c. Finding funding for a new Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. *→ Needs NU Priority*
- d. Addressing our core facilities needs. *SCHOOL OF ~~B~~eterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences*
- e. Further exploring swine, dairy and beef extension collaborations with Iowa State University.
- f. We'll be working on the NU Foundation Capital Campaign, which you'll be hearing more about as we head into the new year.
- g. Cultivating public/public and public/private partnerships that will lead to agriculture having prominence on Innovation Campus.
- h. Working with President Milliken on the next steps for the Global Water Institute.
- i. Maintaining and, we always hope, increasing enrollment levels.
- j. A slowdown in faculty retirements, and the increasing need for retention packages for key faculty.

k. Funding for the university – what happens after the state reserve and stimulus funding are gone?

6. While much faces us, we have much to celebrate in the many ways IANR is at work for Nebraska. Let me share just a few before we open up for discussion:

a. We are growing our international programs with memorandums of understanding with universities in China, India, the Americas, Pakistan, Korea and the Ukraine. With the increasing demographic and economic importance of China and India, the influx of new Nebraskans from south of the U.S.-Mexico border, and Nebraska's heavy dependence upon exports, it makes sense that IANR be engaged in these regions. Through study abroad experiences and internationally-focused coursework, we can educate our students about other cultures, emphasizing the market potential to our products.

b. As of May 21 of this year, IANR scientists already had claimed \$34.6 million from awarding agencies, more than any year at that time since FY2003. And in 2008, according to UNL's Office of Technology Development, IANR faculty efforts resulted in 82 percent of UNL's

licenses and options, 58 percent of UNL's issued patents, and 92 percent of all UNL royalties, which was \$1,278,142 of UNL's \$1,387,246 total.

- c. The first UNL/CASNR class in the professional program in veterinary medicine completed its two-year curriculum with us in May, and will continue at Iowa State University this August. This was a fantastic class with members that took first in several national competitions. Two of the top three graduates from Iowa State University's college of Veterinary Medicine this spring received their undergrad degrees from CASNR. Proposed School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science will be on the Regents agenda on September 4th.
- d. Sixteen percent, or 13,119 of the University of Nebraska system's hours of instruction in entrepreneurship, were taught by extension faculty and staff.
- e. NCTA has claim to the only college building anywhere in Nebraska for which the Legislature provided funds in this tight budget year.