Notes on the Board of Regents Meeting  
Friday, October 17, 2003

Academic Affairs Committee: NU Biosecurity Committee.  
The presentation was well received and the group was encouraged to continue their work.  
Comments included that the research project will provide a learning experience for  
students involved in the research. This will be cutting edge research at the Medical  
School.

Presenter also noted that UNK’s Chemistry Department will be the beneficiary of some  
of the grants.

Planning Committee: Gender Equity Report  
A member from each campus presented their section of the presentation. Carol Lomicky  
presented for UNK report.

The reports from the three campuses created a lot of questions and issues:  
Regent Wilson was concerned that you do compare apples to oranges. Specifically, he  
was concerned that the report compared average male and female salaries. The problem is  
that the market does drive the salary base of disciplines; if we have more males in higher  
paid disciplines, it is not a fair measure of our progress.

Wilson went on to applaud the efforts of the committees. He was pleased with the  
progress that has been made and sees one of the major priorities for the committee is  
child care services.

Regent Miller was concerned that the phrase “hiring should demonstrate ‘sensitivity to  
gender’” may be interpreted as quotas, and in a litigious society that would be a  
dangerous practice. Carol assured him that a quota was not the intention.

Regent Hassebrook stated that he thought the most important issue was gender climate.  
He likes the idea that EXIT interviews are not conducted by supervisors. He asked about  
mentoring at UNMC, and applauded UNK for its plans to conduct a gender climate  
survey.

Smith et al, ended with a discussion on the irrelevancy of numbers by themselves. We  
need to understand the context hiring. It is important to recruit males into nursing. The  
major goal is gender equity.

Information Technology Committee: NETV Digital Update

The Regents were very receptive to the report and even self-congratulatory. The  
collaborative work that has been ongoing between NETV, President Smith, politicians  
including then Lieutenant Gov. Kim Roback, community leaders, and business leaders;  
Nebraska is in a very good position. Rob Bates declared that Nebraska has been a pioneer
in digital technology. We are positioned with an infrastructure that will shortly allow
digital communication across the state.

President L. Dennis Smith “State of University Address”
His PowerPoint and entire speech was distributed. He prefaced his remarks with a
comment of how proud he was to receive two letters so many years ago. One offered him
the position of president and the second offered him a position in the Biology Department
based upon his credentials—something that has been ignored by recent commentaries.

Business Meeting
There was really only one issue; namely the composition of the President hiring
committee. Regent Wilson suggested that it was too late for changes in the process. The
past process does not need fixing and should not be changed in an emotionally charged
atmosphere. Wilson and Schroeder argued changes in the process are desired, they should
be made at the completion of the hiring process. A motion for each Regent to select a
representative was defeated. A motion to include more students was also defeated. After
a lengthy debate the existing process remained intact.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryl Kelley
Oct. 23, 2003