

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Faculty Senate Resolution

0204-1

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics concludes in its “Projections of Education Statistics to 2012” that the number of public high school graduates in Nebraska will fall by 9.5% over the coming eight years. And,

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics also concludes in this study that for all of the states contiguous to Nebraska, except for Colorado, the number of public high school graduates will also decline over this time, by an average of 13%. And,

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics finds that over this same time there will be an increase of 15% in the traditional college-age population of 18 to 24 year olds, and that college enrollments overall are expected to rise by at least 15% nationally, and that full-time equivalent enrollment is expected to increase by 17%. And,

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics also finds specifically that enrollment in public 4-year institutions is expected to rise to 7.2 million from 6.1 million students, reflecting a 19% increase from the year 2000. And,

Whereas it is clear that the majority of the market of college-bound students over the coming eight years will not be graduating seniors from Nebraska and its contiguous area, but will be a population from “out-of-state” regions, And

Whereas, it is clear that the campuses of the University of Nebraska are currently operating below their optimal capacity due to the significant decreases in student enrollments over the last years, And,

Whereas, “the financial gain from public universities admitting an additional out-of-state student is higher than the financial gain from admitting an additional in-state student who is in the lowest ability region, regardless of the ability level of the out-of-state student.” And that, “states gain in future tax revenues...when additional out-of-state students rather than in-state students attend, regardless of ability level.”(Groen and White, “In-State verses Out-of-State Students: The Divergence of Interest between Public Universities and State Governments.” National Bureau of Economic Research Paper No. 9603, And,

Whereas, the Nebraska State Legislature Higher Education LR 174 Task Force recommends that, “The state’s postsecondary education system must more actively recruit non-Nebraska high school graduates to increase the number of such students who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska,” And

Whereas a significant number of out-of-state students (UNK = 15%, UNL = 35%, UNO 50%) who attend school in Nebraska decide to stay in the state after graduation thus adding to the overall social, financial and occupational well-being of the state, Therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney endorses the position that the Regents should take this opportunity to offer in-state tuition to all out-of-state students who meet admission standards and choose to attend the University of Nebraska.