

October 3, 2025

Dear Members of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents:

Like so many of the people you heard from in today's meeting I am not happy about the damage being done to our campus with these massive, proposed budget cuts; impacting the faculty, staff, students, extension, alumni, stakeholders and community members.

As we in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee wrote you in September, this timeline is not workable.

In that letter we said, a measured approach over years would be better to "*protect the quality of education and research, and would be fairer to faculty, staff, and students.*"

A \$27.5 million budget cut! In this process you are cutting programs and positions in a matter of weeks or months and not in a matter of years. The damage will be difficult to repair, and likely it is irreparable.

These programs are long standing on our campus, with scores of graduates working in this state and beyond; programs with decades, maybe centuries of years of faculty and staff experience put into them.

The timeline is not only unworkable and impossible, it is terribly disappointing.

We will lose dozens of faculty and staff members and quite possibly hundreds of students. How many future students will not be here in coming semesters? We don't know.

We hear so often in these kinds of conditions about unintended consequences. I ask you this: are some of these intended?

The investment in our campus has been – and I choose my word carefully and correctly – pathetic.

According to public records, the state appropriated funds for UNL in the fiscal year 2017-18 was just under \$471 million and the state appropriated funds for the fiscal year 2025-26 are just under \$474 million. That is an increase of 0.6%.

Zero-point-six percent.

UNMC funds were increased by 28% during that time, UNO up 15% and UNK up 15%. The Central Administration funds were increased 106%. That is one hundred and six percent!

Adjusted for inflation, UNL's state appropriated funds are down 24 percent over the last eight years.

Members of the Board, the governor, the legislature and the people of the state of Nebraska want a world class institution.

With that kind of investment, how can it be a world class institution?

And now put another \$27.5 million on top of that.

I am certain that is NOT the Formula for a Return to the AAU.

Divestment leads to less quality. Period.

We are the flagship of this university, the land grant institution and Research-1 institution. We are the BIG RED 'N'.

We are Nebraska when the world sees our sports events.

We are Nebraska in the Big Ten.

We are the university that gets 24 percent less funding, adjusted for inflation.

Thanks very much for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Shrader', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Shrader
Faculty Senate President
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

408.910.4510 / john.shrader@unl.edu

Associate Professor, Sports Media and Broadcasting
College of Journalism and Mass Communications