

December 6, 2025

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate Executive Committee is deeply disappointed that the Board of Regents Friday voted overwhelmingly to eliminate four academic programs, and, as a result, fired dozens of faculty.

Nearly all those who had a part in the decision-making process, from Chancellor Rodney Bennett to the Board members, blamed someone else for the financial conditions that led to the resulting votes.

The \$27.5 million deficit was not caused by any of the faculty, students or staff who are so profoundly and negatively affected by this decision; not the chancellor, nor the president, nor members of the Board acknowledged this.

The [chancellor chose to avoid the word faculty](#) in his statement to the university community. In speaking of members of the eliminated departments as merely ‘employees,’ the Chancellor fails to recognize that the bonds between a university, its faculty and its students go far beyond a commercial relationship.

The Board’s decision came after more than five hours of public comment, with more than 110 speakers - all of whom supported retaining the programs.

We are sure that not only will we lose these faculty members, and dozens more who are taking voluntary early retirement, but that many of our brothers and sisters in the faculty whose programs have not been directly impacted will be looking for work elsewhere. We know this because they’re telling us.

It is crystal clear to this committee that the faculty of this university is under assault, and it feels as though we don’t have support on the outside of this university or, sadly, from the inside, either.

For the UNL Faculty Senate Executive Committee,



John Shrader, President