

Talking Points for HLC Peer Review Visit – October 24-25, 2016

| Topic | Key Points | How to Prepare: Key Questions to Consider |
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| Mission | As Nebraska's only public, research intensive, land-grant research university, UNL's mission is to teach, do research and serve Nebraskans. UNL has enacted this mission with a consistent focus on two priorities – excellence in undergraduate education and excellence in research – always pursued within the context of engagement derived from its land-grant tradition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does your role on campus support the mission? • How does your unit facilitate and support student learning, either by itself or in collaboration/cooperation with other campus units? • How do you and/or others in your unit support the research mission? • What contributions do you and/or others in your unit make to support service and outreach? • What contributions can you make to strengthen and improve UNL? |
| | UNL publicly articulates its mission. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role do you play in helping the public understand UNL's mission? |
| | The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways is UNL's commitment to diversity reflected in activities and programs in your unit? |
| | UNL is committed to research, teaching and outreach that serves the public good. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you and others in your unit demonstrate a commitment to the public good? |
| Integrity & Ethics | UNL ensures that students, staff and faculty understand their ethical responsibilities and use and apply knowledge responsibly and ethically. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What policies, processes, and/or practices are in place in your unit that demonstrate a commitment to integrity and ethics within each of the three areas of UNL's mission: teaching, research and service? |
| | The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you and/or others in your unit communicate with students and the public about course offerings, programs, and requirements? • How do you communicate with the public about research and outreach activities? |
| | Academic freedom is a core belief at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is academic freedom honored and ensured in your unit? |
| | UNL provides oversight of research and scholarly practices. | <p>How do you and others in your unit ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research is conducted ethically and responsibly? • Students understand and know how to carry out their ethical |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obligations? • Ethical standards of academic honesty and integrity are enforced? |
| Teaching & Learning | <p>Every encounter with a student is a potential learning experience and every member of the university community has a role to play in student learning and success.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you and/or others in your unit contribute to students' learning? • What programs and practices in your unit contribute to students' success at UNL? • How does your unit ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ courses reflect appropriate levels of student performance? ○ programs are differentiated by goals and outcomes? ○ consistency and quality are maintained across delivery modes and locations? |
| | <p>Integral to UNL's educational programs are the exercise of intellectual inquiry and the acquisition, application and integration of broad learning and skills. These principles are reflected, for example, in the ACE Program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the undergraduate or graduate programs or co-curricular activities you are familiar with help students develop and demonstrate analytical, inquiry and other skills? • In what ways do these programs recognize human and cultural diversity? • How do all faculty and students contribute to scholarship, creative work and the discovery of knowledge? |
| | <p>UNL has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways have you been prepared for your work at UNL (in teaching, research, student services, etc.)? • How is your performance evaluated? • What opportunities does UNL provide for your professional development (as an instructor, graduate teaching assistant, support staff member, etc.)? |
| | <p>UNL provides support for student learning and effective teaching.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support systems are you aware of – or responsible for – to help students learn more effectively? Think about student orientation services, advising, co-curricular activities and infrastructure resources. • How are faculty and instructors supported in improving teaching and research effectiveness? |
| Assessment | <p>UNL takes responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement. Some assessment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assessment processes are used in your area (student surveys, annual performance reviews, data analytics, academic program reviews, etc.)? • How does your department/unit learn from assessment and make improvements based on assessment data? |

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| | examples: ACE-learning outcomes; NSSE Exit Survey, career placement, academic program reviews. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide at least one good example of improvement in your area based on assessment? |
| Resources, Budget, Strategic Planning | UNL is financially stable; the necessary infrastructure is in place, including resource and budget monitoring processes. Over the past five years, the campus has invested over \$32 million in the renovation of classrooms, laboratories, student support service centers and learning resource centers. UNL's sponsored research is at an all-time high. | <p>Think about fiscal, staffing and physical resources in your unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have recent renovations and other investments improved your ability to serve UNL's constituents? • How have improvements in IT infrastructure and resources affected your work? |
| | UNL's governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable it to fulfill its mission. The university engages in systematic and integrated planning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways have you been able to engage in governance and planning in your unit and at the University? • How are you involved in setting academic requirements, policy, and processes in your unit or for the University? |