

Platte Chat

*An ongoing conversation about how to best preserve free enterprise,
personal responsibility and limited government in Nebraska*



University of Nebraska Regents, Platte Institute share concerns about UNL graduation rates

It looks like at least some of the University of Nebraska regents agree with a recent Platte Institute study that said UNL isn't doing a good enough job graduating its students.

According to this article which appears on [Omaha.com](#) (below), Regents are expressing discontent about UNL's six-year graduation marks, something the Platte Institute pointed out in a study it did with ACTA at the end of 2010. In that study, ACTA also gave UNL low grades for how its four-year graduation rates compared with other Big XII schools. The study is available by clicking [HERE](#).

LINCOLN -- University of Nebraska Regents on Friday called for NU's undergraduate campuses to make more progress on graduating more students, faster.

Administrators presented a report on graduation rates that show the University of Nebraska-Lincoln continues to lag behind its peers in the percentage of students who graduate within six years. The University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska at Kearney have surpassed their peers.

At UNL, 63.1 percent of students earned their bachelor's degree within six years as of 2008-09. It was the second year for a slight decline in the six-year graduation rate and below the average of UNL's peer institutions, 69.2 percent.

UNO's six-year graduation rate grew to 44.7 percent, exceeding its peer average of 39.7 percent; while UNK's rate grew to 59.2 percent, exceeding its peer average of 50.8 percent.

Because they serve different demographic groups, institutions like the Kearney and Omaha campuses typically have lower graduation rates than a research institution like UNL, UNO Chancellor John Christensen said.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons was among Regents expressing concern about UNL's rate.

"I am concerned that our graduation rates at UNL are flat and below peers," he said. "Some of that may be explained by ACT (college entrance exam) scores, but not all. We need to focus on teaching, we're not making the progress we set out to make at UNL. We've made a lot of progress at UNL with our emphasis on research, but not as much with our emphasis on

teaching. If we're serious about saying undergraduate teaching is important at UNL, we need to do something about it."

Regent Mark Clare of Lincoln agreed. He also called for UNL to improve its undergraduate advising, saying that his own son had difficulty in his first year because he had been placed in classes that weren't right for him.

www.platteinstitute.org

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or if you wish to be removed from all future newsletters, please [click here](#) to manage your subscriptions.