



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Can Vuran, Chair, Academic Planning Committee

FROM: Rodney D. Bennett, Chancellor

DATE: January 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Final Budget Reduction Decisions

Dear Dr. Vuran and Members of the Academic Planning Committee,

Thank you for your December 8 letter and recommendations on the budget reduction proposals initially presented to you in October totaling \$12M. I appreciate the seriousness with which the APC approached this work and the effort put into gathering input from our campus community.

I have carefully reviewed and considered the APC's recommendations and specifically have focused my time and attention on your recommendations against reducing the Office of Diversity & Inclusion budget by \$800,000 and against making \$2,014, 733 in budget reductions related to instructional efficiency.

In light of your negative recommendations, I have engaged university leadership and shared governance partners in search of viable alternatives. Specifically, I have convened the Executive Leadership Team and spoken with the Presidents of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and ASUN, among others. In each instance, I have asked for alternatives to take the place of the \$2,814,733 in reductions that you have recommended against. Such alternatives could not be identified. For this reason, I have decided to finalize and implement the \$12M budget reduction plan as presented to you and made public on November 8 and updated with additional detail on November 21.

I do not take this action lightly. I understand the concerns about these reductions raised by both the APC and some members of our campus community. However, it is paramount that UNL remains a good steward of the resources entrusted to us by the people of Nebraska. Eliminating the \$12M deficit that has been carried forward from the previous fiscal year is one important way to do that.