

## Chancellor's Proposed Budget Reduction Plan

From IANR Vice Chancellor's Office <IANR@unl.edu>

Date Fri 2025-09-12 01:44 PM

To Susan VanderPlas <susan.vanderplas@unl.edu>

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Sept. 12, 2025

Dear IANR faculty and staff,

Earlier today, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Chancellor Rodney Bennett shared his proposed budget reductions. We want to follow up with you to outline the proposed changes that will specifically impact our IANR community. Please remember that the public release of these reductions is just one step of the budget reduction process. At this point these are *recommendations only*—not final decisions.

The recommendations specific to IANR include:

### **Department of Statistics**

The proposed plan would eliminate a standalone Department of Statistics offering BS, MS, and PhD degrees and moves the university toward a distributed model that leverages expertise embedded across IANR, UNL and the NU system. The plan proposes to strategically deploy a portion of state-appropriated funds to continue to offer:

- Critical student competencies. Undergraduate and graduate students would continue to gain essential skills in statistics and data analytics for their future careers. We anticipate course offerings would include STAT 218, STAT 380, STAT 801, STAT 802, STAT 870, complemented by additional coursework in R programming, bioinformatics, computational biology, quantitative genetics/genomics, and data analysis interpretation and visualization offered through other units.
- Coordinated statistical consulting. Through the Statistical Cross-Disciplinary

Collaboration and Consultation Lab (SC3L) Help Desk, services would be available to support laboratory, greenhouse, and field research conducted by IANR faculty, staff, post-docs, and students, as well as other units.

Budget reductions would be achieved through the elimination of positions (12 FTE).

### **Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology**

The Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology would be integrated within a new interdisciplinary school. This integration would ensure that research, Extension, and teaching remain aligned with workforce priorities and the long-term vitality of Nebraska's economy and communities. MS and PhD degrees in Entomology and Plant Pathology would continue to be offered. If the Chancellor's budget plan is approved by the Board of Regents, the faculty from the two units, working alongside administration, would have the 2026 spring semester to develop the framework for the new school—including the name and faculty governance structures. Budget reductions would be realized through natural attrition, including the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP).

### **Departments of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication**

The Departments of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication (ALEC) would be integrated within a new interdisciplinary school. This integration would ensure that expertise within these departments is retained within IANR, and research, Extension, and teaching programming is aligned with workforce priorities and the long-term vitality of Nebraska's economy and communities. Current BS, MS, and PhD degree pathways would continue to be offered. If the Chancellor's budget plan is approved by the Board of Regents, the faculty from the two units, working alongside administration, would have the 2026 spring semester to develop the framework for the new school—including the name and faculty governance structures. Budget reductions would be realized through natural attrition, including the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP).

The Chancellor's budget reduction plan also proposes the elimination of the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design, which includes faculty with appointments in Nebraska Extension and the Agricultural Research Division.

Again, none of the proposals outlined above has been finalized, and there will be opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders to weigh in before any action is taken. The Academic Planning Committee (APC) will gather input through public sessions and online submissions before Chancellor Bennett submits his recommendations to the Board of Regents for approval. More information is available on [UNL's budget process website](#).

The Chancellor's budget reduction plan includes changes that impact people, programs, and passions in deeply personal ways across the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Please know we are committed to supporting IANR and the broader community as we navigate this difficult process together.

We have profound trust in the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. Together, even in this challenging moment, we will continue to serve Nebraska with excellence and purpose.

Thank you for all that you do, and for the heart and commitment you bring to IANR every day.

Sincerely,

IANR SLT – Charlie, Derek, Tom, Rich, Jeff, Cara and Tiffany



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