



Nebraska State
College System

CHADRON | PERU | WAYNE

2023-2025

Agreement between

**The Nebraska State Colleges
Board of Trustees
(Employer)**

and the

**Nebraska State College System
Professional Association (NSCPA)**

July 1, 2023

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NSCS-NSCPA BARGAINING AGREEMENT
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025

This Agreement between the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges at Chadron, Peru and Wayne, Nebraska acting on its own behalf and through its agents (hereinafter referred to as the Employer) and the Nebraska State College Professional Association (hereinafter referred to as NSCPA) is for the purpose of establishing mutually acceptable procedures, practices and conditions regarding rates of pay, hours of work, and conditions of employment to be observed by the parties to this Agreement at each of the three state colleges regarding the employees included in this bargaining unit (hereinafter referred to as unit members).

In the spirit of continuing a harmonious and cooperative relationship, the Employer and NSCPA agree to implement and exercise the provisions of this Agreement in a fair and reasonable manner.

ARTICLE 1.
RECOGNITION

Section 1.1 Unit Membership

The Employer recognizes the NSCPA as the exclusive bargaining agent for all full-time (at least 0.75 FY FTE) librarians and non-supervisory, professional staff employees who are employed on a nine (9) to twelve (12) month basis by the Employer at Chadron, Peru and Wayne, Nebraska for the purpose of negotiating with respect to hours of work, rates of pay and working conditions; provided, however, that this bargaining unit shall not include supervisors, part-time, interim or temporary employees, employees specifically listed below, and any other employees in a support or faculty position.

The Employer and NSCPA agree that professional staff employees will be considered to have supervisory responsibilities, and therefore be excluded from the bargaining unit and not covered by this Agreement, when assigned to supervise at least one (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) professional staff employee or two (2) FTE support staff employees.

The Employer and NSCPA further agree that the only full-time employees other than supervisory employees to be excluded from the bargaining unit are those employees who occupy the following positions:

- a) Temporary or interim positions for less than one (1) year;
- b) Head coaching positions in all sports and the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach;
- c) Institutional Research Officer positions;
- d) College Foundation positions;
- e) One position reporting directly to each President;
- f) One position reporting directly to each Vice President;
- g) Human Resource Directors, Human Resource Assistant Directors, Payroll Managers, and Human Resource Coordinators; and,
- h) System Office positions.

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The Employer and NSCPA also agree that the creation of any new bargaining unit position, reclassification of a position, or any change in job title of any existing unit position will require the Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations to give email notice of such change to the NSCPA Chief Negotiator or designee before posting of such position, reclassification of the position, or change in the job title.

Section 1.2 Exclusivity

The Employer agrees that it will not sign any contract, make any written agreement, or recognize any other employee representative for unit members during the term of this Agreement.

Section 1.3 Notice of Personnel Actions

Personnel actions affecting unit members such as appointment, reclassification, salary adjustments, separations, and dismissals are reported as information to the Board of Trustees at scheduled meetings of the Board. The System Office will provide email notice to the Chief Negotiator when Board meeting agendas, materials and minutes are posted on the website at www.nscs.edu.

Section 1.4 Non-Unit Classification Questions and Review

Should NSCPA have questions regarding the classification of a position as a NSCPA unit member or non-unit member, such questions will be directed to the Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations for review. The review will occur within four (4) weeks of the inquiry and resolution will be based upon the unit determination directive issued by the Commission of Industrial Relations.

Section 1.5 Terms and Conditions of New Appointments

All new unit member appointments shall be consistent with the express terms and conditions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 2. NONDISCRIMINATION

Section 2.1 Nondiscrimination

The Employer and NSCPA agree that no preference or discrimination shall be shown by either the Employer or NSCPA for or against any unit member in regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, political affiliation or affiliation or non-affiliation with NSCPA. The parties further agree that no employment action shall be discriminatory on the basis of individual characteristics other than qualifications for employment, quality of performance of duties, and conduct in regard to employment.

The Nebraska State Colleges are equal opportunity institutions and do not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. Each College has designated an individual to

coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to the Compliance Coordinators assigned at each College and identified on each College website.

The Employer is committed to providing a workplace environment free of unlawful harassment and/or discrimination in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Unlawful harassment or discrimination of employees in regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability is prohibited. Unlawful harassment includes, without limitation, verbal harassment (derogatory comments and/or slurs, negative stereotyping, intimidating behavior), physical harassment (assault or physical interference), visual harassment (posters, cartoons, drawings, or improper written or graphic material), and innuendo.

If any unit member has reason to believe that he or she has been unlawfully harassed and/or discriminated against, that unit member should report the violation to a supervisor, the Human Resources Director, or a Vice President. If the reporting unit member feels that the report does not achieve satisfactory results, a second report should be made to another administrator. All reports shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

ARTICLE 3. RECRUITMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT

Section 3.1 Posting and Notice of Position Openings

When vacancies occur in bargaining unit positions which the Employer intends to fill, or when new positions are established which are part of the unit, Human Resources shall post notice of the vacancies on its website. Such notices shall include the job title, description, qualifications, date of availability, proposed salary or pay range, FLSA exempt/nonexempt status, and collective bargaining unit status. The notices shall remain on the Human Resources website a minimum of ten (10) working days. The Employer shall not fill the posted position during the ten (10) working day notice period. When the Employer has hired a new unit member, Human Resources shall notify the NSCPA Local Chapter President by email within five (5) working days of the date of hire.

Section 3.2 Advertising Position Openings

Simultaneous to the internal posting of position announcements, the Employer may advertise vacancies externally. When positions are advertised externally, the vacancy notice shall be posted on the Human Resources website of each College.

Section 3.3 Unit Member on Search Committee

At least one (1) unit member will be asked to serve on each search committee, which serves in an advisory capacity, for a vacant unit position. The names of the selected unit member will be provided to the NSCPA Local Chapter President by Human Resources when the committee is formed.

Section 3.4 Job Description & Evaluation Procedure for New Hires

Newly hired unit members will be provided a current job description and a copy of the procedure or forms used in the evaluation of their performance. The College will provide a copy of the job description to the NSCPA Local Chapter President upon receipt of a signed release from the unit member.

Section 3.5 Notifications for New Hires

Newly hired unit members will be advised that their position is covered by the NSCPA Agreement. The Employer agrees to inform new unit members where a copy of this Agreement and College handbook may be accessed online (www.nscs.edu). A written copy of this Agreement and/or the College handbook shall be provided to the unit member by Human Resources upon request. Human Resources will notify the local NSCPA President of the new hire within thirty (30) calendar days of the start date.

Section 3.6 Background Checks

Offers of employment are contingent on the applicant successfully passing a background check.

ARTICLE 4. APPOINTMENTS/NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Section 4.1 Professional Staff Contracts

Unit members shall be issued employment contracts specifying salary, type of employment appointment, classification title, employment period and other terms of employment. The employment contract shall contain a statement that the rights and responsibilities specified in applicable Board policies are a part of the contract.

Section 4.2 Specific Term Appointments

A "Specific Term Appointment" is an appointment for a term of one (1) year. A Specific Term Appointment shall terminate at the end of the stated term, if written notice of non-reappointment is given to the appointee in accordance with notice requirements listed in Section 4.3.

Section 4.3 Notice Requirements for Non-Renewal of Specific Term Appointments

Except for instances involving dismissal for cause, unit members shall be given written notice by the Employer of intent not to renew their appointment/employment contract in accordance with the following notice requirements:

- a) At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to expiration during the first (1st) year of employment as a unit member;
- b) One hundred five (105) calendar days prior to expiration during the second (2nd) year of employment as a unit member; or,

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- c) One hundred eighty (180) calendar days prior to expiration during the third (3rd) year of employment as a unit member.
- d) After the third (3rd) year, dismissal requires adequate cause pursuant to the procedures identified in Sections 17.4 through 17.14.
- e) Notice shall be deemed to have been properly given if hand delivered, or mailed to the unit member's home address, as reflected by the records of the Employer, by certified mail, with sufficient postage attached. It shall be the responsibility of the unit member to maintain a current address in the Human Resource Office.
- f) If written notice is not given in the manner herein provided within the time specified, failure to provide the required notice period shall not result in automatic reappointment or create any right to reappointment for an additional term. The Employer shall have the option of providing employment or severance pay in lieu of any portion or all of the notice to which the unit member is entitled, so long as the extension of employment or severance pay is commensurate with the notice to which the unit member is otherwise entitled.

Section 4.4 Calculating Years of Employment for Notice Requirements

For purposes of calculating years of employment under the notice requirements cited in Section 4.3, unit members hired between July 1 and November 30 of any calendar year will be considered to have completed their first year of employment on July 1 of the next fiscal year. Unit members hired between December 1 and June 30 of any calendar year will be considered to have completed their first year of employment not on July 1 of the next fiscal year, but on July 1 the year thereafter e.g., a new hire on December 1, 2023 would be credited with the first year of employment on July 1, 2025.

Section 4.5 Dismissal or Layoff of Appointment Prior to Expiration

A unit member may be dismissed prior to expiration of the stated employment period only for adequate cause, or layoff. Before any dismissal for cause may occur, a hearing must be offered in accordance with provisions in Article 17. However, Assistant Coaches and Football Offensive or Defensive Coordinators may be dismissed without cause upon at least ninety (90) calendar days written notice.

Section 4.6 Adjunct Teaching Appointments

Unit members may accept a separate employment appointment for teaching duties performed outside their regularly assigned work schedule with the approval of the Academic Vice President and Human Resources. All such employment appointments are subject to compensation requirements per the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Such appointments shall be limited to one (1) or more courses totaling no more than four (4) credit hours per semester in each of the fall and spring semesters, and one summer term. It is understood that the terms and conditions of such appointment are not covered by or subject to this Agreement.

Section 4.7 Summer Camp Coaching Assignments

Unit members may accept a separate appointment for summer camp coaching duties performed outside their regularly assigned work schedule with notification to the immediate supervisor and approval of the appropriate Vice President. It is understood that the terms and conditions of such employment are not covered by or subject to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5. CHANGE IN POSITION

Section 5.1 Transfer

Unit members who transfer to another bargaining unit position having increased job responsibilities, shall be paid the minimum salary as posted for the new position or a five percent (5.0%) increase of the current salary, whichever is higher. Any increase over and above these minimums herein established shall be at the discretion of the Employer. This section shall not be used to determine the salary for unit members hired into new positions apart from the reclassification process.

Unit members who transfer to another bargaining unit position having decreased job responsibilities, shall be paid no less than the minimum salary as posted for the new position.

Section 5.2 Additional Compensation for Significantly Increased Job Responsibilities

Unit members who are assigned significant increased job responsibilities, as an addition to existing responsibilities, will receive additional compensation.

If a unit member believes that additionally assigned duties/responsibilities have significantly changed his or her job duties within their classification, the unit member can request a meeting with his or her supervisor and the Human Resource Director to discuss a review of existing duties. The Human Resource Director will respond in writing within twenty-five (25) working days of the meeting. Any change in position classification or salary is at the sole discretion of the Employer. In the event approval for a classification change is not obtained, there are two (2) options. The additional duties and responsibilities in question shall be removed; or, the job shall be restructured to add or delete duties as necessary to conform to the classification description.

Reclassification of an existing position will not require the unit member currently performing the duties of the position to reapply for the position. The unit member retains years of service.

Salary changes resulting from reclassification or from significantly increased job responsibilities will be made in accordance with the provisions outlined in this Article.

Section 5.3 Transfer to Temporary Position

Unit members assigned to any temporary position shall not change the unit member's service date in relation to benefits and contract renewal status.

Section 5.4 Non-unit Member Transfer to a Unit Position

Non-unit members who transfer into professional staff unit positions through the hiring process or a reclassification will maintain their service date in relation to any leave and vacation benefits in this Agreement. Such non-unit members will be treated as new unit members in relationship to notice requirements regarding renewal or non-renewal of appointment.

Section 5.5 Unit Member Transfer to Another Unit Position

Unit members transferring to another unit position through the hiring process or a reclassification will maintain their service date in relation to any leave/vacation benefits. Such unit members will be treated as new unit members in relationship to notice requirements regarding renewal or non-renewal of appointment, unless credit for prior service to the College is granted or otherwise agreed upon in writing by both parties at the time of hire or reclassification.

Section 5.6 Temporary Pay Increases

When a unit member is assigned to perform the duties of a NSCPA position in a higher pay classification than the classification currently held by the unit member for at least thirty (30) consecutive calendar days, the unit member shall receive a temporary pay increase to the minimum salary of the higher pay NSCPA classification or a minimum of five percent (5%) increase in their current pay rate for the hours worked in the temporary assignment, whichever is higher. If the unit member is assigned to perform temporary duties in a higher pay classification that is outside the NSCPA unit, the 5% pay increase will apply for the hours worked in the temporary assignment.

**ARTICLE 6.
WORKING SCHEDULES**

Section 6.1 Work Schedules; Job Responsibilities

The Employer shall provide a job description for each unit member and inform each unit member of his or her work schedule and job responsibilities, and may require unit members to work evenings, weekends, and/or holidays. If new responsibilities are added to the unit member's job duties, the unit member shall be so advised with as much advance notice as is practical and may request a meeting with supervisor(s) and Human Resources to discuss any realignment or adjustment of existing priorities, duties that may be removed or reassigned, workload expectations, the review process outlined in Section 5.2 and additional compensation or compensatory hours if applicable. The assignment of work schedules and job responsibilities are non-grievable matters.

Section 6.2 Exempt Employees

Unit members exempted from the Wage and Hour Law of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act who work more than forty (40) hours a week in fulfilling their job responsibilities will not be compensated for the overtime hours. Work schedules may be set outside the typical 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. office hours. Upon the unit member's request and at the discretion of the supervisor, the unit member's work schedule may be adjusted when the unit member's job

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responsibilities do not conform to the regular workweek and/or regular work schedule. The supervisor shall not unreasonably deny consideration of such flexible work schedule requests.

If the unit member is required to work on a scheduled College holiday, such unit member shall be allowed an equal number of hours off on an alternate date.

Section 6.3 Non-Exempt Employees

Under provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, unit members not exempted from payment of overtime wages must be compensated for overtime hours worked. Compensatory time off shall be provided for overtime hours, in lieu of payment, to the extent possible, as follows:

(a) Compensatory time on a one-for-one basis must take place within the work week; e.g., unit member works ten (10) hours Wednesday and can be compensated by working six (6) hours on Thursday to avoid exceeding the forty (40) hour limit in one work week. Supervisors shall consult with unit members to schedule work hours so as to avoid exceeding the forty (40) hour per week limitation; provided,

(1) no unit member will be required to work more than ten (10) hours per day without agreement between the supervisor and the unit member and

(2) supervisors will provide at least five (5) work days advance notice prior to a deviation from the normal work schedule.

(b) Compensatory time on a one-and-one-half basis shall be provided for hours worked over the forty (40) hour per week limitation. Compensatory time should be scheduled as soon as possible, preferably within the same pay period as earned, to avoid large accumulations. In some cases, it may be necessary to delay scheduling and use of compensatory time beyond the pay period to accommodate the needs of the Employer, the requirements of the unit member's job and the personal schedule of the unit member. Supervisors shall consult with unit members to schedule and use compensatory time. Unit members shall be paid for unused compensatory time at the end of employment.

(c) A unit member may not accrue more than two hundred forty (240) hours of compensatory time (one hundred sixty (160) hours of time worked). Unit members will receive pay for compensatory hours in excess of this limit.

If the unit member is required to work on a scheduled College holiday, such unit member shall be allowed an equal number of hours off on an alternate date.

Section 6.4 Graduation Ceremonies

Participation in graduation ceremonies is voluntary unless required by the unit member's job duties.

Section 6.5 Unit Member Committee Assignment

A unit member will not be required to serve on more than two committees at any one time unless the committee assignment is directly related to the unit member's position. The unit member may voluntarily serve on more than two committees with approval of his or her supervisor.

**ARTICLE 7.
HOLIDAYS**

Section 7.1 Holiday Schedule

The following holidays (eight (8) hours each) are compensated holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Juneteenth	June 19
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday following
Christmas Day	December 25

Employees with less than a 1.0 FTE position shall earn holiday leave at a proportional pro-rated amount.

Section 7.2 Additional Holidays

In addition to the holiday schedule noted above, the Employer shall schedule five (5) more compensable holidays during the calendar year. Each holiday is calculated on an eight (8) hour basis. The Employer may also schedule additional holidays to match state and federal holiday observances. Holiday schedules will be announced by September 1 of each academic year.

**ARTICLE 8.
PERSONNEL FILES**

Section 8.1 Unit Member File

The unit member may keep his or her own file which may include any materials the unit member deems appropriate to his or her job qualifications and performance.

Section 8.2 Official Personnel File

An official personnel file for each unit member shall be maintained at the College in the Human Resource Office.

Section 8.3 File Contents

The personnel file may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) General personnel information and employment contracts;
- b) Academic records;
- c) Personnel actions generated by the Employer; and,
- d) Performance evaluations and memoranda of discussions with the unit member relating to evaluations of the unit member's performance.

Section 8.4 File Inspection

A unit member or an NSCPA representative, whom the unit member has so designated in writing, has the right to inspect the contents of his or her individual personnel file.

Files must be reviewed in the presence of Human Resources staff.

Section 8.5 Informed Inclusion

The unit member will be given a copy when material relating to performance and/or conduct is placed in the personnel file within ten (10) work days.

ARTICLE 9. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Employer and the NSCPA agree to the following standards of Professional Conduct. Unit members shall conduct business in a manner that is consistent with:

- a) The NSCPA-NSCS negotiated Agreement;
- b) College Employee Handbook;
- c) NSCS Board Policies; and,
- d) State and Federal Laws.

ARTICLE 10. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Section 10.1 Purpose

The purpose of the performance evaluation shall be to promote high levels of achievement and morale through a system which encourages management and employees to work together to improve individual performance and to facilitate communication concerning employee progress toward the attainment of college objectives. Evaluation forms will include four rating categories for performance. The categories shall be as follows: Exceeds Expectations, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement and Unsatisfactory.

Section 10.2 Procedure

Every unit member shall receive a written performance evaluation report for the academic/fiscal year based on job assignments which reflects the current job description. The supervisor will schedule a meeting with the unit member prior to May 1 of each year to discuss the evaluation report in relation to the job assignment and priorities and to set goals and specific objectives for the following year. If a performance evaluation report was not completed during the previous academic/fiscal year, the unit member's performance shall be considered as satisfactory. However, if a resignation, retirement, or non-renewal is pending, an evaluation is not required, but will be completed if requested by the unit member. Satisfactory performance will not be assumed by default if an evaluation is not completed.

Supervisors will provide each unit member a copy of strengths identified or improvements required in the unit member's performance with recommendations to assist improvement and specific outcomes that are expected. In case of identified areas of concern, a plan for implementation of recommendations with specific outcomes will be created by the supervisor in consultation with the unit member. Such a plan will be signed and attached to the original evaluation with a copy placed along with the evaluation in the unit member's official personnel file.

Subsequent to the annual evaluation, if an area of concern arises the supervisor will notify the unit member of the concern and will provide guidance in an effort to improve performance to a satisfactory level.

Section 10.3 Review & Acknowledgment of Evaluation

Performance evaluation forms must be reviewed and acknowledged by the unit member. Acknowledgment signifies only that the unit member has reviewed and discussed the performance evaluation. Each unit member shall receive a complete copy of his or her performance evaluation report with all signatures within ten (10) working days of its completion and have an opportunity to comment or rebut any performance assessment within ten (10) working days of receipt. A copy of each performance evaluation report and any rebuttal or comment submitted shall be included in the unit member's official personnel file, and given to the next higher supervisor.

Section 10.4 Evaluation Criteria Notification

Unit members will be provided advanced notice of any changes in the criteria used for evaluation of their performance.

Section 10.5 Grant Programs

Supervisors shall solicit input from external grant representatives when conducting unit member evaluations.

**ARTICLE 11.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Section 11.1 Development Opportunities

The Employer agrees to maintain its continuing effort to provide unit members with training and the opportunity to attend professional meetings necessary for the accomplishment of assigned duties. Priority shall be given to immediate work requirements when assigning training or professional meeting activities.

Section 11.2 Cost & Work Time

The cost of required training shall be paid for by the Employer. A unit member participating in required training or course work shall be considered to be on work time.

Section 11.3 Completion of Advanced Academic Degree

In recognition of the unit member's increased value to the system, the Employer shall provide a salary base increase upon the completion of each advanced academic degree earned after the commencement of employment, and after the effective date of this Agreement. Official transcripts or other appropriate documentation from the awarding institution must be provided to the Human Resources Office prior to July 1st in order to receive the salary increase. Salary increases will be based on the following schedule:

Bachelor's Degree	\$ 1,000
Master's Degree	\$ 1,500
Doctoral or appropriate terminal Degree	\$ 2,500

Section 11.4 Certification Completion

The Employer shall provide a salary base increase upon the completion of an approved certification program. Approval of a certification program must be documented on a form provided by the Employer before the certification program begins. Certifications must relate to the unit member's position and better qualify the unit member to perform assigned tasks.

The amount of the salary base increase will be determined by the Employer taking into consideration the time investment, the cost of obtaining the certification and the benefit to the College. After providing the salary increase under this Section, the Employer has the right to continue to require the unit member to maintain a current certificate without further compensation. As long as the certification is required, the Employer shall pay all costs associated with maintaining the certification.

**ARTICLE 12.
GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURE**

Section 12.1 Limitations

The grievance and arbitration procedure is designed to provide a prompt and efficient method for the resolution of grievances. The grievance procedure hereinafter set forth shall be the exclusive method for resolving grievances concerning the administration of this Agreement. Time limits provided herein should be adhered to unless modifications are agreed to in writing by the parties to the grievance. Unit members who have been recommended for dismissal for cause from employment under the provisions of Article 17, may not file grievances while the dismissal process is pending.

Section 12.2 Representation

A unit member shall have the right to have a NSCPA representative participate in any step of the grievance and arbitration procedure. The Chief Negotiator or designee shall receive copies of all written, findings, recommendations, and decisions for the grievance regardless of NSCPA representative participation.

Section 12.3 Definitions

A grievance is hereby jointly defined to be a dispute filed by a unit member or NSCPA concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement filed in accordance with the terms of this Article.

A grievant is defined as the unit member(s) or NSCPA.

The parties jointly agree that the procedure for grieving a dismissal decision for cause is outlined in Article 17 and is the exclusive method for resolving such grievances.

Section 12.4 Preliminary Grievance Requirement

Prior to filing a formal grievance, a unit member shall request a "preliminary grievance meeting" to discuss his or her dispute with the immediate supervisor or the administrator who made the decision at issue in an attempt to resolve the dispute. An NSCPA representative may present and discuss the dispute on behalf of any unit member or group of unit members with the supervisor or administrator who made the decision at issue. Any disposition satisfactory to the unit member(s) at this stage shall be reduced to writing, signed by the parties, and shall be binding on the parties as to the facts and circumstances giving rise to the dispute and the matters therein resolved. However, the same shall not constitute a binding precedent in the disposition of other similar disputes that may subsequently arise.

Section 12.5 Formal Grievance Contents

In reducing a grievance to writing, the following information must be stated with reasonable clearness:

- a) the exact nature of the grievance;
- b) the act or acts of commission or omission;
- c) the dates of the act or acts;
- d) the identity of the party or parties alleged to have caused the grievance;
- e) the specific provisions of the Agreement alleged to have been violated; and,
- f) the remedy that is sought.

Section 12.6 Steps of Grievance Process

A formal grievance shall be processed in the following manner:

In all cases where the NSCPA is representing the unit member, the Employer shall not discuss a grievance with the unit member without the NSCPA representative present.

- a) **Step 1.** A formal grievance shall be filed in writing with the Human Resource Director within twenty (20) working days following the act or omission giving rise thereto, or the date on which the grievant knew, or reasonably should have known, of such act or omission if the date is later. The Human Resource Director and appropriate Vice President have ten (10) working days after receipt of the grievance, or any extension provided for herein, to review the matter. The Vice President shall issue a determination in writing to the grievant within the ten (10) working day period. Any disposition satisfactory to the grievant at this step shall be reduced to writing, signed by the parties, and shall be binding on the parties as to the facts and circumstances giving rise to the dispute and the matters therein resolved. However, the same shall not constitute a binding precedent in the disposition of other similar disputes that may subsequently arise. In the event the written decision refers to documents, copies of such documents shall be attached to the decision.
- b) **Step 2.** The grievant shall have ten (10) working days from receipt of the Vice President's decision to appeal that decision to the President. The President shall submit the grievance to an advisory committee consisting of two (2) unit members chosen by the local chapter of the NSCPA, none of whom is a member of the grievant's department, and two (2) employees chosen by the President, neither of whom has line authority over the grievant. The committee shall hold a hearing within ten (10) working days after receipt of the grievance and shall admit and consider evidence submitted by the parties in the form of documents or the testimony of witnesses. The grievant shall have the right to attend all evidentiary proceedings of the committee, to present evidence, to examine documents, to question witnesses, and to otherwise present any relevant argument or evidence. The grievant shall also have the right to assistance by NSCPA or an attorney at the grievant's own expense. The committee following its own procedures and in accordance with this Agreement shall submit a video recording of the hearing, copies of all exhibits, and the committee's written findings and recommendations to the President and the grievant within ten (10) working days following the hearing. The President shall issue a written decision to the grievant within five (5) working days following receipt of the recommendation of the committee.

- c) **Step 3.** The grievant shall have ten (10) working days from receipt of the President's decision to appeal that decision to the Chancellor. A copy of the grievance and all prior written recommendations and responses is to be provided. The Chancellor shall, within the normal order of business, review and notify the grievant of his or her decision. If the Chancellor's decision, under this Step, fails to satisfy the grievant the grievant may seek relief under applicable State or Federal laws, or by agreement of the Chancellor, and the parties through binding arbitration.

Should the parties both agree to arbitration and are unable to agree on an arbitrator within ten (10) working days, the dispute shall be referred to the American Arbitration Association for resolution by an arbitrator from its labor panel in accordance with its voluntary rules of labor arbitration. The cost of arbitration shall be shared equally by the parties. Such cost shall be limited to the arbitrator's fees and expenses and applicable charges of the American Arbitration Association.

Section 12.7 Reprisals

There shall be no reprisals taken against a unit member for filing, or participating as a witness in a grievance unless the grievance or testimony includes maliciously false allegations. Retaliation by the Employer or NSCPA is prohibited.

Section 12.8 Time Limits

Failure of the Employer in any step to render a decision to the grievant within the maximum time limits shall automatically allow the grievant to proceed to the next step. Failure of the grievant to proceed to the next step within the maximum time limit shall be considered as termination of the grievance.

ARTICLE 13. SALARY

Section 13.1 2023-2024 Base Salary Increase

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the amount of the annual base salary increase for each unit member shall be four and one-half percent (4.5%) above each unit member's prior year annual base salary.

Section 13.2 2024-2025 Base Salary Increase

For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the amount of the annual base salary increase for each unit member shall be four and one-quarter percent (4.25%) above each unit members prior year annual base salary.

Section 13.3 New Hire Salaries

New hire salaries will not exceed the mid-point of the salary range for each classification in the bargaining unit. The Employer will provide each local NSCPA President and the Chief Negotiator

with the list of all NSCPA classification titles with corresponding salary ranges annually in July and any time it changes.

Section 13.4 Retention Pay Adjustment

At the Employer's discretion, the Employer can negotiate a salary increase not to exceed 5% with unit member when the unit member has a competing job offer with another employer. Negotiating and the amount of the salary increase are at the sole discretion of the Employer and are non-grievable.

**ARTICLE 14.
INSURANCE, BENEFITS, AND RETIREMENT PROGRAMS**

Section 14.1 Insurance Coverage & Carriers

The Employer agrees to make available to all unit members group medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance coverage. Nothing within this Agreement, however, shall prohibit the Employer from considering other insurance carriers.

Section 14.2 Medical Insurance

A medical plan with appropriate state-wide network coverage will be provided. The Employer will contribute a fixed dollar amount equivalent to eighty-five percent (85%) of the aggregate costs of the single medical plan for the term of this Agreement, with the unit member responsible for the remaining amount of the cost of coverage. For unit members who opt for coverage under a family, employee/children or employee/spouse plan, the Employer will contribute a fixed dollar amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the aggregate costs of the plan for the term of this Agreement, with the unit member responsible for the remaining amount of the cost of coverage. When both members of a married couple are employed by the Employer and request family coverage, each individual will be required to contribute an amount equal to the contribution a unit member makes toward single coverage.

Section 14.3 Section 125 Plan

The Employer agrees to continue its current Internal Revenue Service Code Section 125 Plan to provide an opportunity for unit members to voluntarily participate in a flexible spending account, subject to provisions of IRS Code Section 125. Unit members may choose to set aside an amount from their paychecks only, which is not taxed, in a medical or dependent care account for payment of eligible expenses.

Section 14.4 Dental Insurance

A dental plan will be provided with appropriate state-wide network coverage. Orthodontic services are not covered. The Employer will contribute eighty-five percent (85%) toward the cost of individual employee dental coverage and seventy-five percent (75%) toward the cost of family, employee/children or employee/spouse dental coverage. Unit members who elect insurance coverage must enroll in both medical and dental plans.

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When both members of a married couple are employed by the Employer and request family coverage, each unit member will be required to contribute an amount equal to the individual employee plan premium.

Section 14.5 Life Insurance

A life insurance plan offering group term life insurance coverage at a minimum amount of thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000) will be provided at the Employer's expense with the unit member permitted to supplement the basic coverage at the unit member's expense. The unit member may also purchase a dependent life policy on a spouse and child at the unit member's expense. Eligible coverage for children begins at six (6) months of age.

In accordance with current policy provisions, unit members' life insurance benefits are reduced to 50% at seventy (70) years of age.

Section 14.6 Disability Insurance

A group long-term disability plan will be provided which will pay sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 2/3%) of salary after ninety (90) days of continuous disability as defined by the insurance carrier. The Employer will provide seventy-five percent (75%) of the aggregate costs of this coverage.

Section 14.7 Retirement Contribution

The retirement plan presently in effect shall be continued and the Employer shall take no action to decrease the benefits under the present retirement plan during the term of this Agreement. During the term of this Agreement, the Employer contribution will be eight percent (8.0%) with all eligible new unit members required to contribute six percent (6.0%) of his or her gross earnings. New unit members are eligible to participate in the retirement plan at age twenty-five (25) with two (2) years of consecutive service. At age thirty (30), participation is mandatory.

Section 14.8 Immediate Family Tuition Remission

A sixty-seven percent (67%) tuition remission shall be available for immediate family (children who are twenty-four (24) years of age or younger at the beginning of the semester or session) and a spouse of unit members who enroll at a Nebraska State College on a space available basis. The remission does not apply to fees. Although online courses have a single rate, a portion of the rate consists of fees. The remission provided for online courses will be sixty-seven percent (67%) of the equivalent resident tuition rate for an on-campus course. Remissions are subject to the following condition:

- a) The immediate family member must be admitted as a student of the College and must have met all normal academic requirements for the courses taken.

Section 14.9 Vision Insurance

A voluntary vision insurance program shall be provided. The Employer shall contribute fifty percent (50%) toward the cost of single vision coverage for plan option selected by the unit member.

Section 14.10 Employee Assistance Program

The Employer shall make available to all unit members an Employee Assistance Program. The Employer shall pay the annual flat rate as established by the program. Any other costs shall be borne by the unit member.

Section 14.11 Employee Tuition Waiver

Unit members shall be eligible to enroll for credit in courses during non-work hours for one dollar (\$1.00) per course on a space available basis. Enrollment and tuition waiver under this provision will be limited to one (1) course of not more than four (4) hours in each of the Fall and Spring semesters and one Summer term. One dollar (\$1.00) covers the cost of tuition for purposes of this waiver program and the one dollar (\$1.00) charge is non-refundable. Fees connected with course enrollment must be paid by the unit member including the same institutional and class fees paid by all other students. Although online courses have a single rate, a portion of the rate consists of fees. The waiver provided for online courses will be based on the equivalent resident tuition rate for an on-campus course (beyond one dollar (\$1.00)). Waivers are subject to the following conditions:

- a) Unit members must be admitted as students of the College and must have met all normal academic requirements for the courses taken.
- b) A unit member's work schedule may be arranged, with appropriate supervisory approvals, to accommodate enrollment. Such approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

Section 14.12 Tuition Remission and Waiver Limitation

A unit member may not enroll in courses under Section 14.8 and Section 14.11 simultaneously during the same semester. Only one (1) tuition waiver course may be taken per semester by a unit member. Tuition remissions and tuition waivers will not apply to already discounted tuition rates for dual enrollment and professional development courses.

Section 14.13 Use of Facilities

Unit members, their spouses, and dependents will be allowed to use those facilities belonging to the College that are used to promote wellness. Although there is no membership fee to access the facilities, the College may charge spouses and dependents (17 years and older) a fee for an identification card to access the facilities. Dependents under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult to use the facilities. Such facilities will be available to unit members, their spouses and dependents during the facilities' normal hours of operation and when not being used for classroom instruction or program activities.

**ARTICLE 15.
PROVISIONS FOR LEAVES**

Section 15.1 Vacation Leave

- a) During the first five (5) years of service unit members working on a twelve (12) month basis shall accrue three (3) weeks of vacation with pay, which consists of fifteen (15) working days. The basis for computation is the accrual of 1.25 vacation days per month of employment. The accrual of vacation leave shall begin the first day of employment. Following the fifth (5th) year of continuous employment, the following accrual schedule shall be followed:

1st year through 5th year	15 days
6th year	16 days
7th year	17 days
8th year	18 days
9th year	19 days
10th year	20 days
11 th year	21 days
12 th year	22 days
13 th year	23 days
14 th year	24 days
15 th year	25 days

Unit members with appointments less than 1.0 FTE shall accrue vacation leave at a proportional pro-rated amount.

- b) At no time will a unit member be allowed to accrue vacation leave hours in excess of the two hundred eighty (280) hours [or thirty-five (35) days] accumulation limit.
- c) The President may advance vacation leave to a unit member in an amount not to exceed a total of forty (40) hours. Vacation time earned thereafter will be applied to the negative vacation balance until the advanced amount has been fully reimbursed. Upon separation from employment, unit members who have been advanced vacation leave shall reimburse the Employer for all advanced and unreimbursed vacation leave. The Employer is authorized to deduct such amount from the final pay.
- d) Each unit member, upon retirement, dismissal or separation from employment, shall be paid for unused accumulated vacation leave up to the two hundred eighty (280) hour accumulation limit. Upon the death of a unit member, his or her beneficiary shall be paid for his or her unused accumulated vacation leave. A unit member who is transferred within the State College System will have his or her accrued vacation leave transferred to the receiving College. Unit members transferring as an employee from Nebraska State Government or the University of Nebraska System may be eligible to have vacation hours transferred to the receiving College at the discretion of receiving College. Employees transferring to Nebraska State Government or the University of Nebraska System may be eligible

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to have vacation hours transferred to the new employer at the discretion of the new employer.

- e) Unit member requests for up to ten (10) consecutive days of accumulated vacation leave shall not be unreasonably denied.
- f) Supervisors shall respond to written requests for vacation leave within five (5) working days of the request. Requests for use of accumulated vacation leave shall not be unreasonably denied.

Section 15.2 Sick Leave

- a) Unit members shall be allowed sick leave with pay. Medical documentation to substantiate the use of sick leave may be required by the Employer.
- b) Sick leave for unit members shall accrue at the rate of one (1) day per calendar month of consecutive service during the first five (5) years of service. Those unit members who have completed six (6) or more years of consecutive service shall accrue sick leave according to the following schedule:

1st through 5th year	1.0 day per month
6th year	1.1 days per month
7th year	1.2 days per month
8th year	1.3 days per month
9th year	1.4 days per month
10th year and on	1.5 days per month

The accrual of sick leave shall begin the first day of employment, and unused sick leave may be accumulated up to and including one hundred eighty (180) days [one thousand four hundred forty (1,440) hours].

Unit members with appointments less than 1.0 FTE shall accrue sick leave at a proportional pro-rated amount.

At no time will a unit member be allowed to accrue sick leave hours in excess of the one thousand four hundred forty (1,440) hours [or one hundred eighty (180) days] accumulation limit.

- c) Sick pay is available with the realization that a unit member may become ill or injured to the extent of being unable to work. Sick leave may be taken for absences made necessary by reason of illness, injury, or disability, including temporary illnesses covered by or contributed to by pregnancy, miscarriage, abortion, childbirth, and recovery there from, by exposure to dangerous disease which may endanger the unit member or public health, medical appointments, or by illness in the immediate family making it necessary that the unit member be absent from his or her duties. The term "immediate family" as used in this section shall be defined to include the spouse, children (adopted, foster, step, biological, or legal ward), grandchildren, siblings, parents, grandparents, or parents of the spouse. It is not intended as any earned time

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off with pay, and shall not be granted as such. Unit members shall be compensated for unused sick leave upon separation of employment as provided in subsection (f).

- d) The President may advance sick leave to unit members in an amount not to exceed a total of forty (40) hours. Sick leave earned thereafter will be applied toward the negative sick leave account balance until the amount advanced is fully reimbursed. Upon separation from employment, unit members who have been advanced sick leave shall reimburse the Employer for all advanced and unreimbursed sick leave. The Employer is authorized to deduct such amount from the final pay.
- e) Should a unit member become ill or disabled and require hospitalization while on vacation, vacation leave shall be changed to sick leave, effective the date of hospitalization, upon request to the immediate supervisor. Documentation regarding the hospitalization may be requested.
- f) A unit member who is transferred within the State College System will have his or her accrued sick leave transferred to the receiving College. Unit members transferring as an employee from Nebraska State Government or the University of Nebraska System may be eligible to have sick leave hours transferred to the receiving College at the discretion of receiving College. Employees transferring to Nebraska State Government or the University of Nebraska System may be eligible to have sick leave hours transferred to the new employer at the discretion of the new employer.
- g) Each unit member who is eligible for retirement in the State College System will, upon separation of employment by reason of retirement, be entitled to a one-time payment of one-fourth (1/4) of their accumulated sick leave, with the rate of payment based upon their regular pay at the time of retirement. Upon the death of the unit member, his or her beneficiary will be paid one-fourth (1/4) of his or her accumulated, unused sick leave, with the rate of payment based upon the unit member's regular pay at the time of death

Section 15.3 Return to Employment Within One Year

Unit members who have separated employment and who return to employment within one (1) year from the date of such separation shall have service for sick leave and vacation leave reinstated at the level established prior to the separation. However, unit members who have been dismissed for disciplinary reasons shall not have service for sick leave and vacation leave reinstated. Unit members who have separated employment may apply for available employment openings. If successful, the unit member will be considered a new hire with all the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of a new hire, unless otherwise negotiated and noted on the employment contract.

Section 15.4 Family and Medical Leave

- a) In accordance with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), unit members with one (1) year of service who have worked at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250)

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hours during the previous twelve (12) month period shall be entitled to take up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid FMLA leave during any twelve (12) month period:

- 1) for the birth of a child, or the placement of a child with the unit member for adoption or for foster care;
 - 2) to care for a spouse, children, parents, or persons bearing the same relationship to the unit member's spouse with a serious health condition;
 - 3) for the unit member's own serious health condition; or,
 - 4) for any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a son, daughter or parent of the employee is on active duty (or has been notified of any impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation.
- b) A serious health condition is defined to include:
- 1) An illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either inpatient care, meaning an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for more than three (3) consecutive days.
 - 2) Any period of incapacity because of pregnancy or prenatal care (even without treatment by a health care provider and even if the absence is less than three (3) days, e.g., morning sickness).
 - 3) Any period of incapacity because of a chronic serious condition (even without treatment by a health care provider and even if the absence is less than three (3) days, e.g., an asthma attack).
 - 4) Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments by health care providers for reconstructive surgery after an accident or injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive days if untreated, e.g., cancer (chemotherapy), kidney disease (dialysis).
- a) "Children" shall mean a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward.
 - b) Requests for FMLA leave must be submitted to the Human Resource Office. Appropriate certification or documentation may be required by the Employer.
 - c) The Employer agrees to continue to pay its portion of applicable insurance premiums during the term of FMLA leave. In the event two (2) unit members are both eligible under this policy, the couple shall be entitled to a combined total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave for the birth and care of the newborn child, for placement of a child for adoption or foster care, and to care for a parent who has a serious health condition.

- c) National Defense Authorization Act. An employee who is a spouse, child, parent or next of kin (nearest blood relative) to a member of the Armed Forces who is being treated for, recuperating from or is on the temporary disability retired list due to a serious injury or illness is entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) work weeks of leave during a twelve (12) month period to provide care for the service member as provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008.
- d) Accrued sick, vacation, compensatory time, and crisis leave donations (paid leave) must be used during FMLA before unpaid FMLA leave begins. Leave shall not accrue while on unpaid family and medical leave.

Section 15.5 Crisis Leave Sharing Program

- a) Unit members may contribute accrued vacation, compensatory time, or accrued sick leave to benefit another employee at the same College who is suffering from a catastrophic illness, who is unable to report to work due to pandemic quarantine measures or who is a new parent. To be eligible to receive leave, employees must have exhausted their own paid leave options.

Accrued vacation or sick leave may be donated in no less than one (1) day increments. Hours donated, but not used, will be maintained in a shared leave pool and distributed on an as needed basis to eligible employees by a Shared Leave Committee designated by the College and including a unit member. The Committee will determine the amount of donated leave an employee may receive and may only authorize an employee to use up to a maximum of ninety (90) days in a twelve (12) month period. The crisis leave sharing program will permit salary and insurance continuation for those employees receiving shared leave.

The crisis leave pool at each College may not exceed 7,500 donated hours. However, donations received prior to 7-1-2023 will remain in the crisis leave pool but no new donations will be accepted until the pool balance is below the maximum number of 7,500 hours.

Details of this program are available at the Human Resource Office.

- b) New Parents. Within the first twelve (12) months following the birth or adoption of a child, a unit member may request up to thirty (30) workdays of crisis leave donations. For unit members eligible for FMLA, crisis leave donations shall count against the 12 weeks FMLA leave. Donations are not for intermittent use; donations may be used for up to thirty (30) consecutive workdays.

Section 15.6 Bereavement Leave

At the discretion of the immediate supervisor up to six (6) days of paid leave, per fiscal year, may be granted to the unit member for purposes of bereavement. Reasonable requests within this limit shall not be denied. Generally bereavement leave is taken immediately following the death, however, there may be circumstances when more flexibility is needed, for example, if a memorial service is scheduled at a time in the future.

Section 15.7 Inclement Weather/College Closure Leave

During periods when inclement weather causes classes to be canceled, all unit members, other than those required to report to work to provide emergency or other essential services, shall be entitled to take Inclement Weather Leave. Such leave does not require the prior approval of the supervisor. Time spent on Inclement Weather Leave will be charged against the unit member's vacation or comp-time balances (if applicable), or time can be made up within thirty (30) days at the request of the unit member which request shall not unreasonably be denied. When the President declares the entire College closed unit members will not be charged leave. Unit members required to report to work to provide emergency or other essential services shall be allowed comparable time off on an alternate date.

Section 15.8 Injury Leave/Worker's Compensation

All unit members who are unable to work as a result of a job-related injury or disease may be granted injury leave with pay once a claim is approved by the workers' compensation program administrator. Injury leave shall not exceed five (5) of the unit member's normal working shifts for any particular injury. Certification or documentation of the injury or disease will be required. Such leave is not to be charged against accumulated vacation or sick leave. For details of Workers' Compensation benefits, unit members are to inquire at the Human Resource Office.

Section 15.9 Civic Duty Leave

Unit members shall be eligible for absence with pay for jury service or election service, during the actual period of such service, and may retain fees paid him/her as a juror or election worker.

Absence with pay may also be granted for unit members who are subpoenaed as a witness for the State of Nebraska, during the actual period of such service. Upon being served a summons that his/her name has been drawn as a juror or upon being served a subpoena to appear as a witness, the unit member shall immediately advise the supervisor in writing, stating the time, place and name of the court to which he/she is to attend and provide a copy of the summons to Human Resources.

Section 15.10 Military Leave

Military leaves of absence shall be granted to all unit members as may be provided by state and federal law or regulation per Board Policy 5608.

According to the terms of the Family Military Leave Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§55-501 to 507), an eligible unit member who is the spouse or parent of a person called to military service lasting one hundred seventy-nine (179) days or longer with the state or United States pursuant to the orders of the Governor or the President shall receive up to thirty (30) work days of unpaid leave. An eligible unit member must have been employed for at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours during a twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of leave.

The unit member shall give at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the intended date upon which the family military leave will commence, if leave will consist of five (5) or more consecutive work days. Unit members taking family military leave for less than five (5) consecutive days shall give the Employer advanced notice as is practicable. The unit member shall consult with the Employer to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt College operations. The Employer may require certification from the proper military authority to verify the unit member's eligibility for the family military leave requested.

For benefit purposes, unit members taking Family Military Leave will be treated the same as other unit members taking unpaid Family and Medical Leave.

Section 15.11 Requested Leave of Absence

Unit members who have been employed for three (3) consecutive years, shall be eligible to apply for a leave of absence for the purpose of research, education, travel, work at other institutions, or private business organizations, or engaging in other activities which will improve the unit member professionally and be of benefit to the Employer. Such leave of absence is without pay. However, if the leave of absence is at the request of the President and the unit member has been employed for four (4) consecutive years such leave may be compensated with one-half (1/2) pay for one (1) academic year, full pay for one (1) semester or a lesser amount by mutual agreement of the unit member and the President.

A recipient of a paid leave of absence may be required to return to employment for a period of one (1) year or to immediately repay the salary and cost of benefits received while on the leave of absence, at the discretion of the President.

- Granting leaves of absence is at the discretion of the President and is a non-grievable matter.
- Unit members on a paid leave of absence will continue to receive the proportionate share of the Employer's contribution for applicable insurance and retirement plans. The remaining portion will be paid by the unit member.
- Unit members on an unpaid leave of absence may contribute to the retirement plan and participate in the insurance programs at their own expense.
- Within ninety (90) days following the unit members return from the leave of absence, the unit member shall submit to the President a written report summarizing the activities and results of the leave.

ARTICLE 16. NSCPA ACTIVITIES, USE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Section 16.1 Use of Facilities

NSCPA shall be permitted to transact official NSCPA business on College property provided that such business shall not interfere with or interrupt normal College operations or the responsibilities of unit members.

Section 16.2 Access to Services

NSCPA shall continue to have access to use of printing, duplicating, addressing and other College services, subject to use and fee requirements.

Section 16.3 Distribution of Unit Information

Unit members shall have access to College bulletin boards used for employee information and campus email following procedures that apply to other employees. General distribution of NSCPA materials will be allowed on campus, including email and campus mail, during both working and non-working hours. Meeting rooms may be scheduled, as available, through the College.

Section 16.4 Negotiation Team Member Notification

It is specifically agreed that the Chief Negotiator shall provide the Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations with the names of the members of the NSCPA negotiating team prior to the commencement of negotiations. Likewise, the Vice Chancellor shall provide the Chief Negotiator with the names of the Employer negotiating team prior to the commencement of negotiations.

Section 16.5 Negotiation Team Member Leave

No more than seven (7) NSCPA team members shall be granted paid leave to participate in negotiation sessions with the Employer. Paid leave shall include necessary travel time. Supervisors must be informed of and approve such leaves through the usual leave practices or procedures.

**ARTICLE 17.
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Section 17.1 Discipline

The Employer may discipline a unit member for adequate cause pursuant to disciplinary grounds contained in the College handbooks. Prior to amending the disciplinary grounds contained in the College handbooks, the Vice Chancellor of Employee Relations will provide at least sixty (60) days' notice and an opportunity to meet and confer with the Chief Negotiator or designee.

Section 17.2 Guidelines for Imposing Disciplinary Action

The Employer has the right to discipline a unit member provided that the unit member will be advised of the reason or reasons for such action. The level of discipline shall be based on the nature and severity of the infraction. Disciplinary action challenged as not in conformance with this Agreement, may be grieved under Article 12, however, dismissal may only be challenged pursuant to the process specified in this Article.

Prior to imposing discipline, unit members are entitled to written notice of the allegations against them which will identify the rule, policy, or performance standard violated and include an

explanation of the evidence. The notice will include a description of the incident(s) involved and date(s) of occurrence as applicable.

Prior to imposing discipline the unit member will additionally be entitled to an opportunity to respond to the allegations, present mitigating evidence, explain extenuating circumstances or present reasons why disciplinary action should not be taken.

A unit member shall be notified in writing whenever any disciplinary action is taken. The unit member must acknowledge receipt by signing the written disciplinary notice in cases of a written warning, disciplinary probation, disciplinary suspension without pay and demotion. The unit member's signature does not constitute agreement with the content of the notice. If the unit member refuses to sign, a supervisor and a witness will sign a notation of the unit member's refusal on the notice. A copy of the written disciplinary notice will be placed in the unit member's personnel file. The unit member has the right to include written rebuttal or comment on disciplinary notices that go in his or her personnel file.

Section 17.3 Types of Disciplinary Action

The following types and levels of disciplinary actions for unit members are described below in a progressive manner. The nature and severity of the situation will dictate the level of discipline imposed and the due process protections to be applied. Progressive discipline is not required. More severe levels of disciplinary action may be imposed when a lesser action is deemed inadequate or has not achieved the desired results. If one (1) or more of the prescribed disciplinary actions are imposed, they shall be in writing and imposed concurrently.

- a) **Written Warning.** Written warnings consist of a discussion between the unit member and the supervisor in which the supervisor explains in detail the reasons for the warning and then provides a written disciplinary notice to the unit member of the action required to correct the unsatisfactory performance with applicable time requirements. Written reprimands will include a place for supervisors to note in writing when unsatisfactory performance issues have been resolved. Unit members will receive a copy of this written notice.
- b) **Disciplinary Probation.** A disciplinary probation may be imposed by the appropriate Vice President or designee for a period of up to six (6) months, but may be extended during which time the unit member's performance must improve. A corrective action plan including improvement standards and time frames shall be included in the written disciplinary notice.
 - i) Unit members on disciplinary probation shall not be granted pay increases.
 - ii) Unit members granted leave while serving disciplinary probation may have their probation period extended by the number of days absent on leave.
 - iii) Unit members may be removed from disciplinary probation by a written notice of the appropriate Vice President or designee.

- c) **Disciplinary Suspension Without Pay.** A period of suspension imposed by the President shall be without pay and shall not exceed twenty (20) working days. The disciplinary notice informing the unit member of suspension shall be dated and include the reason for the suspension and the number of days of the suspension.
 - i) The unit member's service date shall be adjusted by the number of calendar days absent during a suspension.
 - ii) Unit members on suspension shall not be granted paid leave during the suspension period.
- d) **Demotion.** A President may transfer a unit member to a position of lesser responsibility, in or out of the unit, as a disciplinary action. Upon transfer, a President shall place the unit member in the new position and reduce the salary accordingly.
- e) **Dismissal.** Dismissal is removal from employment for failure to respond to previous disciplinary actions or when extreme circumstances render any preceding steps unnecessary or inappropriate. Dismissal for cause negates the deadlines and notice obligations regarding either contract renewal or cancellation notice as may otherwise be provided in this Agreement.

Section 17.4 Dismissal Procedure

- a) Upon receipt of a supervisor's and/or Vice President's recommendation to dismiss a unit member, the President shall inform the unit member, in writing, of a time at which the unit member may present to the President or designee, any additional facts, material, or evidence regarding the unit member's potential dismissal. Failure by the unit member to appear shall constitute a waiver by the unit member of the aforementioned meeting. The employee may be represented by a third party in the meeting, but the time, date, or place of said meeting shall not be postponed or rescheduled because the representative of the unit member is unable to attend unless both the President and the unit member mutually agree to another time, date, and/or place.
- b) Within five (5) work days following the scheduled date of the meeting, the President shall provide the unit member a copy of his or her recommendations regarding the dismissal. The five (5) day period may be extended upon agreement between the President and the unit member. A copy of the President's recommendation shall be forwarded to the unit member by Certified Mail with instructions to "Deliver to Addressee Only, Return Receipt Requested" or by personal delivery, or deposit to the unit member's last known address. A copy of the President's recommendation shall also be forwarded to the Chancellor. If the President recommends that the unit member be discharged, the written notice shall inform the unit member that he or she may request a hearing before an advisory committee by submitting a written request to the President within five (5) work days.
- c) If the unit member submits a written request for a hearing the President shall refer the proposed dismissal to an advisory committee for a hearing and recommendation as

provided for in this Article. If no timely written request of a hearing is received, the President's recommendation for discharge will stand as the final decision.

Section 17.5 Advisory Committee Selection Process

The committee shall consist of two (2) members of the unit chosen by the local NSCPA President and two (2) employees chosen by the President, none of whom is to be a member of the unit member's department.

Section 17.6 Advisory Committee Hearing Procedures

The committee will then establish the date, time and place for the hearing and so inform the unit member, NSCPA and the President. The committee shall admit and consider evidence submitted by the parties in the form of documents or the testimony of witnesses. The committee will arrange for the hearing to be videotaped. The unit member shall have the right to attend all evidentiary proceedings of the committee, to present evidence, to examine documents, to question witnesses, and to otherwise present any relevant evidence with respect to the statement of reasons for dismissal. The unit member shall also have the right to be represented by NSCPA or by an attorney at the unit member's expense. Any party who wishes to use a court reporter to take a verbatim transcript may do so at party's own expense. The committee shall adopt rules to be followed which ensure substantive and procedural due process including prior notice of witnesses to be called and documents to be offered in evidence at the hearing, no documents or witnesses not so listed shall be heard, except for the purpose of rebutting oral testimony of the other party or for other justifiable cause found to exist by the committee, and may admit probative evidence as well as exclude incompetent or repetitive evidence, as well as the procedures for compelling witnesses employed at the College to appear.

Section 17.7 Hearing Schedule

The hearing shall be conducted within twenty (20) working days of the request for a hearing. The committee shall render its written recommendation along with a video tape of the hearing to the unit member, and to the President within ten (10) working days after the hearing is closed. If NSCPA is involved, a copy of the written recommendation shall be provided to the NSCPA representative.

Section 17.8 Presidential Decision

Within ten (10) working days after receiving the recommendation from the committee, the President shall render a decision in writing to the unit member and committee. If the President rejects the recommendations of the committee, the President shall state reasons for doing so, in writing, to the committee and unit member. The committee shall have the opportunity within five (5) working days to provide a response for the record. If NSCPA is involved, a copy of the President's decision shall be provided to the NSCPA representative.

Section 17.9 Response to Presidential Decision

If the unit member is not satisfied with the decision of the President, the unit member may make a written request to the Chancellor within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the President's decision requesting a hearing before the Board.

Section 17.10 Appeal to the Board

Upon receipt of the appeal to the Board, the Chancellor as designee of the Board, shall decide if a hearing is to be provided. The Chancellor shall not unreasonably deny the request for a hearing if the request is supported with a showing that the terms of this Agreement have been violated.

If the Chancellor chooses to utilize the services of a hearing officer for the purpose of conducting a hearing and making a recommendation, the hearing officer's scope of review shall be to determine if terms of this Agreement have been violated. The hearing officer shall have no authority to add to, subtract from or in any way modify the terms of this Agreement. Upon receipt of the hearing officer's recommendation, the Chancellor shall issue a written decision stating the reasons therefore within twenty (20) working days.

Section 17.11 Hearing Preparation and Representation

A hearing date before the Hearing Officer will allow the unit member reasonable preparation time. During the hearing, the unit member has the right to be represented by NSCPA or an attorney (at the unit member's expense), to present witnesses, exhibits, and documents, and to question adverse witnesses.

Section 17.12 Chancellor Decision

The decision of the Chancellor, on behalf of the Employer, will be final. The dismissed unit member may seek recourse under appropriate state and federal law; by mediation through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service upon mutual agreement of the Chancellor and the local NSCPA President; or through binding arbitration upon mutual agreement of the Chancellor and the local NSCPA President.

Section 17.13 Time Limit Modifications

Time limits provided herein should be adhered to unless modifications are agreed to in writing by the parties to the dismissal.

Section 17.14 Employment Status During Appeals Process

A unit member recommended for dismissal for cause shall continue to be an employee until the appeal procedure to and including the Chancellor has been exhausted or until the unit member has failed to advance his or her appeal in a timely fashion. The President may, at his or her discretion, suspend or reassign the unit member to other professional duties with pay during the appeal procedure.

Section 17.15 Investigatory Suspension

A unit member who is under investigation for alleged misconduct, or charged with criminal activity may, at the discretion of the President or designee, be suspended with pay and full benefits until such time as it is possible to determine if disciplinary action should be taken. Such investigatory suspensions are not grievable.

Section 17.16 Retaliation Prohibition

There shall be no reprisals against a unit member for providing information as a witness in a disciplinary matter unless the testimony includes maliciously false allegations. Retaliation by the Employer or NSCPA is prohibited.

Section 17.17 Title IX

The investigation of alleged Title IX violations by unit members, and discipline (including dismissal) of unit members deemed to have violated Title IX, shall be handled in accordance with applicable federal laws and regulations rather than any term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 18. RESIGNATION, ABANDONMENT, LAY OFF

Section 18.1 Resignations

To resign in good standing, a unit member must give written notice to the Human Resource Director at least two (2) weeks before separation, unless the Human Resource Director agrees to a shorter period.

Section 18.2 Abandonment

Unit members may be considered to have abandoned the job if he or she has been absent from work for longer than two (2) consecutive workdays without being on approved leave and in the absence of extenuating circumstances. Such abandonment shall be considered as a voluntary resignation not in good standing.

Section 18.3 Layoffs

- a) The Employer decides when a lay off is necessary, and which geographic location, classifications and positions will be affected. Layoffs may be determined necessary because of budget adjustments or reallocations, a modification of position workloads, or elimination of or change in scope of institutional services, or as the result of any other job-related management decision.
- b) When a layoff is contemplated, the President will inform the local NSCPA President and provide an opportunity to meet with the local NSCPA President to discuss potential layoffs. The Human Resources Director shall attend the meeting. After the meeting, the chapter will have up to ten (10) working days

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to submit written recommendations regarding potential layoffs to the President. No action regarding layoffs shall proceed until this process has been completed.

- c) When the Employer decides that a lay off among unit members is necessary, the President or designee shall conduct a layoff in such manner that the remaining employees possess the necessary job qualifications.
- d) The Employer will make an effort to avoid a layoff by use of attrition wherever possible.
- e) Where qualifications, training and ability to perform the work remaining are equal, the Employer will follow these priorities for reduction in force at each geographic location for each classification selected for layoff.
 - 1) Temporary/part-time professional staff employees before unit members;
 - 2) Unit members with unsatisfactory performance records before unit members with satisfactory performance records; and,
 - 3) Unit members with short service before unit members with long service.
- f) For twelve (12) months following the effective date of layoff, a unit member who has been laid off, and who indicates a desire to be placed on a recall list, shall be offered recall in the same position at the College should an opportunity arise. The unit member shall receive the same salary which was received at the time of layoff plus any increases in salary or benefits received by unit members.
- g) Unit members recalled within twelve (12) months shall not be considered to have suffered a break in service for the purposes of calculating sick and vacation leave, as well as service years regarding notice requirements.
- h) For twelve (12) months following the effective date of layoff, a unit member on the recall list who is a qualified applicant for a position in the unit shall be given preference for the position when qualifications are equal.
- i) In the event of layoffs, the President shall establish a recall list and supply it and any changes to the local NSCPA President.
- j) Unit members to be laid off shall be given ninety (90) calendar days' notice and the notice shall include the reason(s) for the layoff.
- k) Each laid off unit member shall, once proper notice is given, be allowed to schedule and take up to ten (10) workdays of leave directed toward securing new employment. Five (5) of the ten (10) days shall be with pay.

**ARTICLE 19
MANAGEMENT**

Section 19.1 Management Authority

All management rights, functions, responsibilities and authority not specifically limited by the express terms of this Agreement are retained by the Employer and remain exclusively within the rights of the Employer.

It is understood that the Employer may test for alcohol or illegal substances for cause. Guidelines for testing will be provided to protect against abuse which include, but not be limited to, definition of cause, training of supervisors, a confidentiality statement, and a statement of progressive intervention and treatment. Such Guidelines shall be available for viewing in the Human Resource Office or on the College websites. Employees who may be required under federal law or regulations to submit to random drug and alcohol testing will be notified of the general testing requirements in writing in advance.

**ARTICLE 20.
DURATION AND LIMITATIONS OF CONTRACT**

Section 20.1 Entire Agreement

This instrument constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties hereto and the Employer, NSCPA, and the unit members will abide by it.

Section 20.2 Contract Amendment

Any term and condition of employment expressly stated in this Agreement may not be eliminated or modified in any way during the term of this Agreement without mutual agreement between the Employer and NSCPA. This Agreement may be amended only upon the mutual agreement of both parties, as documented in writing. Both parties acknowledge that they had opportunity during negotiations to make demands and proposals.

Section 20.3 Agreement Interpretation or Application

Section headings are provided in this Agreement for convenience only and shall not be deemed to substantively alter the content of such section.

Issues of interpretation or application of this Agreement will be addressed between the Chief Negotiator or designee and the Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations with sensitivity to the confidential nature of the inquiry.

Section 20.4 Governing Law; Severability

This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and is subject to, the laws of the State of Nebraska. If any portion of this Agreement shall be declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions hereof.

2023-2025 NSCPA Agreement

Section 20.5 Agreement & Board Policy

This Agreement shall supersede any policies, rules, regulations or practices of the Employer which shall be specifically contrary to or inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement.

Section 20.6 Agreement in Force

This Agreement shall continue in full force until a new Agreement is signed and in place.

Section 20.7 Effective Date


This Agreement shall become effective on the first (1st) day of July, 2023, and shall continue in full force and effect until the thirtieth (30th) day of June, 2025.

2023-2025 NSCPA Agreement

Dated this 12th day of January 2023

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR
NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES**

DocuSigned by:
By: 
90DF4B9A181148F
John Chaney, Board Chair

DocuSigned by:
By: 
2F43C19D7653488
Paul Turman, Chancellor

DocuSigned by:
By: 
180911517448
Kristin Divil, Chief Negotiator

**NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

DocuSigned by:
By: 
180911517448
Kristal Kimmel, Chief Negotiator, Chadron