



## Memorandum

**To:** Faculty and Staff  
**From:** Gary L. Miller *GLM*  
**Date:** November 19, 2007  
**Subject:** Challenges in Higher Education – Report from NASULGC Annual Meeting

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), our principal national affiliation. The organization shelters numerous commissions having to do with the central themes of state universities, land grant universities and urban serving universities. Over 215 universities (including KU and KSU) are members of the group. I was involved primarily in the meetings of the Council on Academic Affairs, which is composed of chief academic officers (provosts).

The NASULGC staff in Washington, D. C. is one of the most important and influential higher education advocacy groups and has been fully involved in the current intensive national discussions about accountability, access, cost and student learning in higher education. Most recently, the group, along with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), has been vigorously engaged in the debate in Congress over the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which, as many of you know, includes provisions that will continue the trend toward federalizing higher education. Because NASULGC represents nearly all of the major research institutions, it is also very much involved in influencing public policy about international relations, climate change, world agriculture, and other issues of global concern.

I want to take this opportunity to report some of the major themes of the conference. Many of these themes represent challenges and opportunities for us locally. Many are in areas where we can have an important impact as we express the Wichita State University urban serving research mission. All are important to the enterprise of higher education.

Selected major themes of the 2007 NASULGC Annual Meeting:

- Access, diversity and excellence in higher education.
- The changing nature of scholarship in the digital age.
- International education, including study abroad, recruiting international students, and satellite campuses and programs in other countries.
- E-learning.
- Climate change and the sustainable future.
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teacher shortage.

- The new Federalism in higher education – impact on state systems.
- Economic development and the role of the university.
- The NASULGC Africa University program.
- Crisis management on campus
- Foundation and university partnerships.
- Intergovernmental relationships.
- The urban higher education agenda.
- The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA).
- Research and graduate education.
- The challenge of the changing faculty demographics.

I will be most happy to discuss these topics with you or groups of you if there is an interest in learning more. Thank you for your commitment to Wichita State University and to our urban mission.

C: Don Beggs