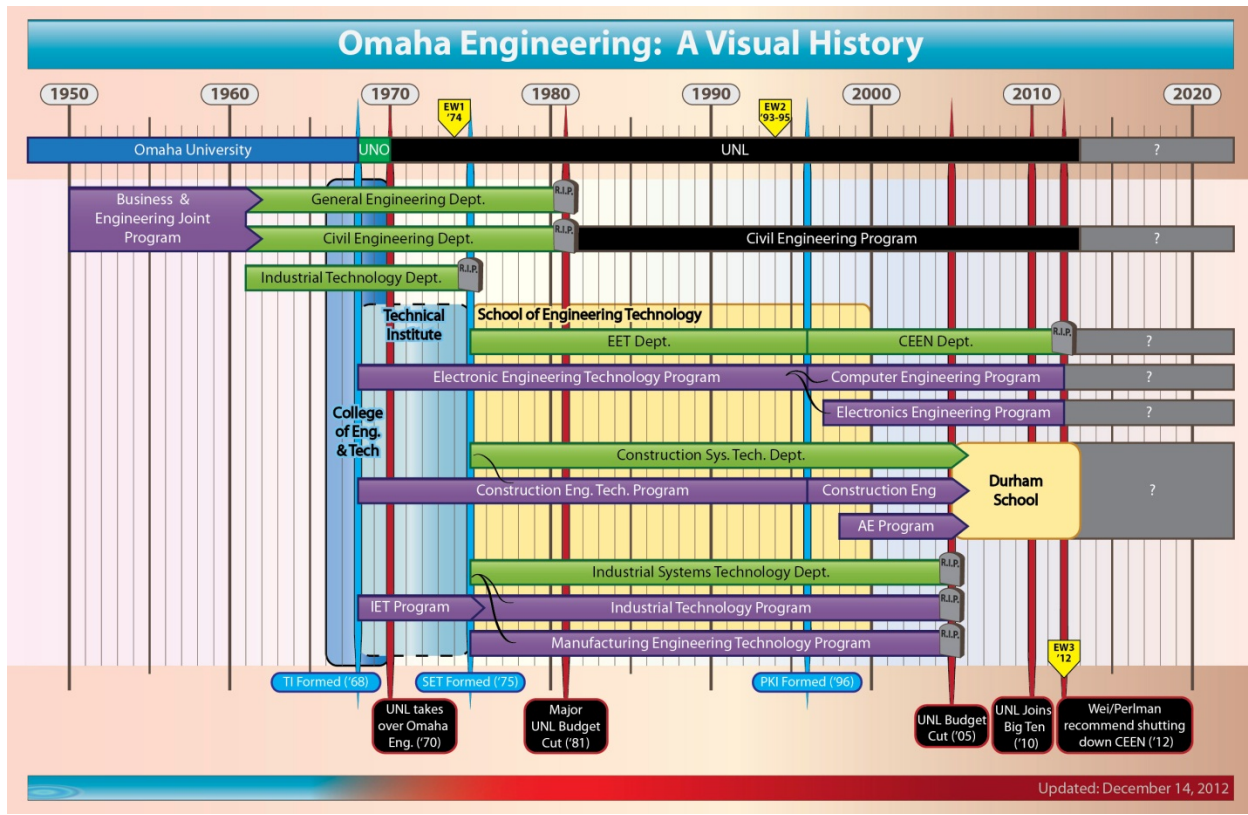


## Relevant Events



**Prior to 10/03/1994** – A long history of neglect by UNL based College of Engineering regarding financial commitment requirements and a need for industry focused engineering programs at UNO leads to petition by Omaha business leaders for a change.

**10/03/1994** – Board of Regents commissioned the Langenberg Review Team which produces a report titled “**Engineering Education in Nebraska**” identifying the need for an independent College of Engineering in Omaha.

**01/11/1994** – UN President Dennis Smith appoints Task Force to produce the “**Strategic Plan for Engineering and Technology Education in Nebraska**”. The plan defines the process for a long term plan designed to eventually establish a separate College of Engineering.

**06/15/1995** – President Dennis Smith identifies multiple impediments to the immediate establishment of a UNO College of Engineering and transmits an “**irrevocable commitment**” to the business leaders in Omaha base on a partnership between the University and Omaha Industry.

**01/23/1996** – Final compromise plan approved by Regents as an interim step the state can afford, Omaha industry can accept and retains opportunity to separate at later date. PKI is created.

**1996 – 2012** – CEEN Industry Advisory Board dedicates and donates 18 years of effort to grow a program capable of standing alone and servicing the metro’s need for engineering.

**10/19/2011 – APC Meeting Minutes** Dean Wei submits plan at APC meeting for seven stand-alone PhD's (CS&E) & (EE). The APC approves the proposal.

**9/19/2012 – APC Meeting Minutes** member Jennifer Brand informs membership that Dean Wei did not follow defined procedure in mandated merger announcement and plan. Chair Harbison approved to contact Faculty Senate President Schubert and sent letter to Dean Wei and copied Vice Chancellor Weissinger that mergers must come before APC.

**9/19/2012 – UNL Chancellor Perlman's Executive Committee Meeting Minutes** section 2.3 includes notice by Faculty Senate President Schubert that objects to procedure used by Perlman/Wei to merge departments without faculty involvement. Perlman's position is that the Chancellor's directives are not subject to defined procedures or faculty involvement and that the program in Omaha is redundant and needs to be merged with Lincoln. Perlman points out that Wei engaged CEEN faculty. No record of advanced involvement by any CEEN representative could be produced but Dr. Bing Chen is removed as Chair of the CEEN Department in Omaha.

Prophetic statement in the Langenberg Report ***"it is essential for all major players to commit to the goal of an independent college so as to forestall corrosive and counterproductive rear-guard actions aimed at aborting the developmental process."***

**The Langenberg Report:**

1. The mission of the UNL and UNO programs are vastly different in that UNL is a traditional engineering program with a general engineering studies component while UNO is more specific to serving the metro/state industry market.
2. A separate College of Engineering "must" be established.
3. Immediately develop a strategic plan directed.
4. A financial commitment needs to be made.

**Impediments identified in Dennis Smith Task Force:**

1. Enrollment of over 300 required to support separate CoE.
2. Establishment of a graduate program required to justify faculty.
3. Development of industry centric research to attract faculty to program.
4. Industry support to fund construction of facilities and program.

**President Dennis Smith's "irrevocable commitments" to Omaha's engineering education needs:**

1. Build facilities
2. Hire tenured faculty
3. Develop new programs
4. Recruit new students
5. Establishment of UNO Associate Dean sitting on Chancellor's council
6. UNO Chancellor's involvement in evaluation and compensation of engineering administrators
7. Operating budget authority transferred to Omaha-based Engineering Associate Dean

8. Recruiting staff in UNO
9. Independent statewide advisory board to monitor progress

**Dean Wei letter – 9/12/12:**

1. Become a Big 10 level engineering program
2. Mandated merger of UNO CEEN program with EE at UNL
3. Replace the chair for the CEEN Department

**Core question:**

What changes have occurred that empowers Chancellor Perlman and the Dean Wei of the College of Engineering at UNL to reverse a Board of Regents sponsored separation process and move to merge the UNO based engineering program with UNL's without submitting an approved plan to the Board of Regents?

**Key Points of Consideration:**

1. The programs serve two different markets. So, creating a single program means one market will suffer. This was evident in the 20 year history leading up to the 1995 comprise. If the goal is to create a Big 10 engineering "nationwide research" program, Omaha industry will suffer.
  - a. How?
    - i. The collaboration between industry consumers of engineering talent and academia will be damaged or broken if decision makers are moved to UNL.
    - ii. Omaha becomes unresponsive or too slow to respond to industry input
    - iii. Research interests in Omaha will be secondary to Big 10 research needs
    - iv. Connection of industry via internships will be weakened with no CEEN chair in Omaha
2. Making changes to UNO based engineering programs without consulting the Chancellor of UNO indicates the "rear-guard action" mentioned in the BoR commissioned report. Chancellor Perlman's comments to the UNL Faculty Senate's Executive Committee indicate that Chancellor Perlman and/or his Dean of Engineering can make changes without consulting impacted department faculty or department Industry Advisory Boards.
3. The chair of the CEEN department was removed for challenging the accuracy of Dean Wei's explanation of the steps he took to submit a standalone Computer Engineering PhD program without including the CEEN Department. The problem was Dr. Chen was correct. Dean Wei's explanation was incorrect. Multiple faculty emails, CCPE minutes and Executive Committee Meeting (UNL Faculty Senate) minutes reflect similar charges with no resulting changes in procedural abuse.
4. The programs between Lincoln and Omaha are vastly different in that Omaha programs are responsive to their customer they serve and the success they realize.
5. UNL's engineering program to become a Big 10 program will require a massive investment on the part of Nebraskans that has not been communicated or approved.

6. According to their own internal report card on Institutional Quality Indicators, UNL is at the bottom of the scale for their current peer programs (not Big 10 schools).

**UNL Performance is not good:**

***“You can’t make a weak man strong by making a strong man weak.”***

UNO has collaborated with industry to create a successful metro based engineering program despite UNL control. When UNL’s programs are measured against Big 10 schools, US News ranks UNL far below the majority of Big 10 programs. <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-engineering-schools/eng-rankings> . Also, UNL ranks significantly lower than most Big 10 programs with regard to endowment monies to support growth.

Big 10 University	Engineering Ranking	Endowment	Growth
University of Illinois	5	\$1,600,603,000	24.1%
University of Michigan	8	\$7,834,752,000	19.4%
Purdue University	10	\$2,001,601,000	22.6%
University of Wisconsin	17	\$1,872,933,000	20.7%
Northwestern University	19	\$7,182,745,000	20.8%
Pennsylvania State University	25	\$1,725,138,000	26.1%
University of Minnesota	28	\$2,503,305,000	14.0%
Ohio State University	30	\$2,120,714,000	13.4%
Michigan State University	49	\$1,400,380,000	22.0%
University of Iowa*	56	\$1,044,097,000	31.9%
University of Nebraska	93	\$1,241,577,000	8.6%
Indiana University**	102	\$1,574,815,000	14.9%

\* - Iowa State is #43

\*\* - Limited engineering program for medical

School	Grade	Composition	Literature	Foreign Language	U.S. History	Economics	Mathematics	Science	Tuition	Graduation Rate
<u>University of Iowa</u>	B	●	●	●	⊘	⊘	⊘	●	\$7,417 (In State) \$23,713 (Out of State)	70%
<u>University of Nebraska - Lincoln</u>	C	⊘	⊘	●	⊘	⊘	●	●	\$7,224 (In State) \$18,924 (Out of State)	64%

UNL was thrown out of the AAU for failing to meet standards in research. This was the first such removal since the AAU’s inception in 1906. UNL has known for many years they were in trouble but

failed to make the necessary changes to preserve its position in this prestigious organization. Critics cite biased counting process but fundamental statement remains, UNL failed to maintain focus on research on the Lincoln campus.

How is UNL going to improve UNO when they can't compete in their own market?

### **Financial impact to state of Nebraska:**

It costs more than twice as much to graduate a student from UNL as UNO (\$52,000 versus \$23,000)

Appropriations: UNL FTE = \$11,004 ; UNO FTE = \$5,016. The transfer of the 800 UNO student records from UNL computer system to UNO will save the state of Nebraska \$4.8M/year in appropriations. Where's that money going? UNL gets it but UNO is paying the bills.

### **CEEN Industry Advisory Board Position:**

1. Findings of study are as valid today as they were 18 years ago
2. 18 years of progress towards identified issues have vastly improved program
3. Recent moves are not in line with commitments
4. Regents need to intervene to stop efforts of merger and determine if UNO has completed separation effort.
5. Program continues as it was until study is completed.

### **UNO Performance:**

Industries in Nebraska are happy with UNO.

All of the hurdles have been exceeded.

UNO Industries are integrated with the program and drives the product.

Students choosing UNO over UNL seek to get an education that prepares them for a career that lets them grow into research, not an education that focuses on research from the beginning.

We need to prepare the numbers regarding the Hurdles:

1. Economic support by industry
2. Industry satisfaction with UNO programs
3. Enrollment numbers on a yr-by-yr basis
4. Increases in graduate programs
5. Improvements in research programs

Is there a difference in the rate of growth in UNO IS&T versus PKI? If there is, and PKI lags, it could be construed as an effort on the part of Lincoln to continue to hold back engineering in Omaha.