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STATE OF IOWA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGENTS IMPLEMENT NEW COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

(URBANDALE, Iowa) – The Board of Regents today (Friday) implemented a new policy so its communications will become more transparent for the public.

The Board will establish on its Web site, <http://www2.state.ia.us/regents/News/news.html>, an “e-mail file” that will contain e-mails that were sent to five or more Regents from any Regent or from the Board office. Regents may choose to put on the site e-mails between or among fewer than five Regents if they want to.

“There has been much discussion of late about our use of e-mail to communicate,” Board President Michael Gartner said in an e-mail to other members. “Some think it is a way of avoiding discussion in a meeting; others say it is a necessary and modern way to communicate for a board that meets six times a year. The basic issue is this: When we communicate by e-mail, are we less transparent than we could be and should be as a state agency?”

Gartner noted that the Board meets just six times a year and that it is vital the members communicate between meetings. But he also noted that it’s important that Board and Regent business be transparent. The solution, he said, is the “e-mail file.”

“I believe this is good public policy,” Gartner said.

Gary Steinke, executive director of the Board, said the policy would be implemented immediately. He said the first item in the file will be Gartner’s note to Regents explaining the new policy.

The Board of Regents is a governing board of nine citizen volunteers established to provide policy-making, coordination, and oversight of the institutions and their affiliated centers. Members are appointed for six-year terms by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Iowa Senate.

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