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ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Actions Requested: Consider adoption of an amendment to Iowa Administrative Code §681, Chapter 1 and authorizing the Executive Director to file the adopted rule in the appropriate format.

Executive Summary: At its December 2006 meeting, the Board approved (1) the recommendations of the Admissions Study and (2) filing an amendment to the Board's administrative rules relative to the admission rules common to the three state universities. The amendment will allow changing the admission requirements at the Regent universities from top half of graduating class and required courses to a Regent Admission Index (RAI) which combines four factors with statistically-derived multipliers:

- ◇ ACT composite score;
- ◇ High school rank;
- ◇ High school grade point average; and
- ◇ Number of high school courses completed in the core subject area.

Students will still be required to complete the core subject area course requirements specified by each Regent university. An RAI of 245 or above will grant automatic admission to any Regent university. Applicants who do not meet the RAI of 245 required for automatic admission or for whom an RAI cannot be calculated will have an opportunity for an individual review of their academic and test records.

The rule specifies that the existing admission requirements will remain in effect for students who seek admission to the Regent universities in fall 2007 and fall 2008. The new admission requirements will be effective for students who seek admission in fall 2009 and thereafter.

The Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on February 28, 2007. The notice established a period for public comment and a date for a public hearing. The public hearing was held on March 30, 2007 on the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) at eleven sites throughout the state. The comment period ended on March 30, 2007. No comments were received either in writing or at the public hearing. The form to certify adoption of the rule amendment will be filed with the Code Editor immediately following approval by the Board. The rule amendment will be effective June 27, 2007.

The full text of the amended rule is as follows:

681-1.1(262) Admission of undergraduate students directly from high school. Students desiring admission to the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, or the University of Northern Iowa must meet the requirements in this rule and also any special requirements for the curriculum, school, or college of their choice.

1.1(1) Application. Applicants must submit a formal application for admission, together with the appropriate application fee as approved by the state board of regents pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 262.9(18) and detailed in rule 681-1.7(262), and have their secondary school provide a transcript of their academic record, including credits and grades, rank in class, and certification of graduation. Applicants must also submit SAT Reasoning Test or ACT scores. Applicants whose primary language is not English must also meet the English language proficiency requirement specified by each university. Applicants may be required to submit additional information or data to support their applications.

1.1(2) Admission criteria.

a. Effective for students who seek admission prior to fall 2009. Graduates of approved Iowa high schools who have the subject matter background required by each university and who rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class will be admitted to any regent university. Applicants who are not in the upper one-half of their graduating class may, after an individual review of their academic and test records, and at the discretion of the admissions officers:

- (a-1) Be admitted unconditionally,
- (a-2) Be admitted conditionally,
- (a-3) Be required to enroll for a tryout period during a preceding summer session, or
- (a-4) Be denied admission.

b. Effective for students who seek admission in fall 2009 and thereafter.

(1) Decisions on admission to a regent university are based on the following four factors: performance on standardized tests (SAT Reasoning Test or ACT); high school grade point average (GPA); high school percentile rank in class; and number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas. These factors are used in the following equation to calculate a regent admission index (RAI):

$$\text{RAI} = (2 \times \text{ACT composite score}) + (1 \times \text{high school rank expressed as a percentile}) + (20 \times \text{high school grade point average}) + (5 \times \text{number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas})$$

NOTE: For purposes of calculating the regent admission index, the ACT composite score has a top value of 36 (SAT scores will be converted to ACT composite equivalents); high school rank is expressed as a percentile with 99 percent as the top value; high school GPA is expressed in a four-point scale; and number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas is expressed in terms of years or fractions of years of study.

(2) Graduates of approved Iowa high schools who have the subject matter background required by each university and who meet the regent admission index of 245 required for automatic admission will be admitted to any regent university. Applicants who do not meet the regent admission index of 245 for automatic admission or for whom a regent admission index cannot be calculated may, after an individual review of their academic and test records, and at the discretion of the admissions officers:

- (a) Be admitted unconditionally,
- (b) Be admitted conditionally,
- (c) Be required to enroll for a tryout period during a preceding summer session, or
- (d) Be denied admission.

1.1(3) Graduates of approved high schools in other states may be held to higher academic standards, but must meet at least the same requirements as graduates of Iowa high schools. The options for conditional admission or summer tryout enrollment may not necessarily be offered to these students.

1.1(4) Applicants who are graduates of non-approved high schools will be considered for admission in a manner similar to applicants from approved high schools, but additional emphasis will be given to scores obtained on standardized examinations.

1.1(5) Applicants who are not high school graduates, but whose classes have graduated, may be considered for admission. These applicants will be required to submit all academic data to the extent that it exists and achieve scores on standardized examinations which will demonstrate that they are adequately prepared for academic study.

1.1(6) *Early admission.*

a. Students with superior academic records may be admitted, on an individual basis, for part-time university study while enrolled in high school or during the summers prior to high school graduation.

b. In rare situations, exceptional students may be admitted as full-time students to a regent university before completing high school. Early admission to a regent university is provided to serve persons whose academic achievement and personal and intellectual maturity clearly suggest readiness for collegiate level study. Each university will specify requirements and conditions for early admission.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 262.9(3).