

Contact: Michael Gartner

APPOINTMENTS BY THE BOARD

Actions Requested: Consider approval of the appointments delineated below:

1. BETTY JEAN FURGERSON to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2006 (reappointment).
2. REGENT ROBERT DOWNER as Commissioner on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) through June 30, 2009 (reappointment).
3. REGENT ROBERT DOWNER to the Board of Regents Economic Development Committee.

Executive Summary:

In accordance with Iowa Code §256.82, the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board was created to plan, establish and operate education radio and television facilities and other telecommunications services including narrowcast and broadcast systems to serve the educational needs of the state. The board is composed of nine members, one of which is to be appointed by the Board of Regents.

Iowa became a member of the MHEC on July 1, 2005, upon the effective date of legislation passed in Iowa. The MHEC has programs which provide for cost-saving efforts on commodities, promote student exchange and access programs, and lead in public policy research initiatives relevant to the member states. Iowa had previously been one of only two Midwestern states not members of the group. In accordance with the Iowa legislation, five voting MHEC commissioners are appointed, one of whom is designated by the Regents. The other four voting members come from the Governor (1), the General Assembly (2), and the community colleges (1). The governor, legislature, independent colleges, and college aid commission are allowed to designate five "alternates" to the MHEC. The Board of Regents Office is the fiscal agent working with the MHEC on behalf of the state. Regent Downer was involved in several discussions before the Iowa legislation was passed, and he was appointed by the Board in August 2005 as a Commissioner for a term ending July 1, 2006. Upon approval by the Board, his term would continue to June 30, 2009.

With the addition of Regent Downer, the membership of the Economic Development Committee will be as follows:

Regent Harkin, Chair
Regent Bedell
Regent Vasquez
Regent Downer