

**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Laboratory
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
IOWA REGENTS DECIDE AGAINST ADDITIONAL TUITION INCREASE,
THANK ELECTED OFFICIALS**

DES MOINES – Iowa's 70,000 public university students and their families will not face a mid-year tuition increase.

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, today canceled its meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday, July 14). The only item on the agenda was consideration of a tuition increase requested by the presidents of the three Regent universities – the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa.

In a news conference today, Regent President Michael Gartner and President Pro Tem Robert Downer said the tuition increase was proposed in early May when it appeared that the increase in state funding for the universities would be around \$15 million, far short of the \$40 million requested by the Board and universities and proposed by Gov. Tom Vilsack.

“During the session, the Governor and the Legislature then came up with millions more, and since then Governor Vilsack has worked hard to find even more millions of dollars for the universities,” Gartner said. “We deeply appreciate the work of the Governor, of the legislators, and of the thousands of students and their parents who wrote and e-mailed their legislators in support of the increased funding.”

In addition, Gartner noted, the three universities themselves “stretched hard and came up with even more money to reallocate to strategic initiatives than was called for in the Board's Transformation Plan adopted a year ago.” As a result, he said, the plan “now will move ahead at an even faster pace than anticipated.”

The Board's Transformation Plan called for the state to provide \$40 million in increased funds, for the universities to reallocate \$20 million, and for a moderate tuition increase – 4 percent for the 2005-06 academic year – to generate an additional \$20 million. This \$80 million was to be used for new and renewed emphasis on education and innovation in areas most important to the universities and the state.

As it now stands, the state will provide slightly more than \$40 million, the Regent universities will reallocate \$25 million, and the tuition increase will provide about \$17 million. The state's money breaks out this way:

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- \$14,969,288 – increased legislative funding for general operations.
- \$2,800,000 – “reversion” money the Iowa Legislature authorized to be given to the Regents from end-of-year surpluses.
- \$6,250,000 – “infrastructure fund” money the Legislature authorized to be spent on renovations and repairs.
- \$6,350,000 – funds earmarked for the three Regent universities for economic development initiatives.
- \$4,000,000 – the Regents will work with Gov. Vilsack to create cost savings through purchasing efficiencies among state agencies.
- \$5,700,000 – Gov. Vilsack was successful in his efforts to acquire from federal sources funding for the new Iowa Cares/expanded Medicaid program, which provided a pool of funds to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in addition to the amount appropriated to UIHC for the care of this population.

“This is a wonderful turn-around from the past,” Gartner said, noting that the Legislature had cut funding for the universities for the four previous fiscal years. “The nine Regents, the three presidents, and faculty and administrators know this has been difficult to achieve, and we will provide detailed accounting to the Governor, to the legislators and to the people of Iowa about how this money will be reinvested to continue the universities on their paths of greatness.

“There are many, many people to thank for this,” Gartner added. “We thank Governor Vilsack – for proposing the \$40 million increase in funding, for working hard with the Legislature to get as much as possible, and for continuing to look for, and find, money after the legislative session ended. We thank the legislators for reversing course of recent years and showing a commitment to and faith in the three universities.”

Regent Downer joined Gartner in expressing gratitude for Iowans’ collective commitment to public higher education in Iowa. “We thank the parents and students for their deep involvement in this process,” Downer said. “We also thank the three university presidents and their colleagues for making the tough but important decisions involved in reallocating even more money than was promised. All of this ensures that the first year of the four-year Transformation Plan will get off to a fast start.”

The Board of Regents is a group of nine citizen volunteers who govern the state’s three public universities and two special K-12 schools – the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Iowa School for the Deaf – through policymaking, coordination, and oversight.

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