

Contact: Josh Lehman

**PROPOSED BOARD POLICY REVISION – POLICY 1.4.H**

**Action Requested:** Consider as a first reading a proposed revision of the Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter 1.4.H as provided below.

**Executive Summary:** At its June 2017 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved waiving the requirements of Board of Regents policy manual section 1.4.H (Public Comment) until such time as further directed by the Board. In place of the waived policy requirements for public comment, a docketed public comment period at regularly scheduled Board meetings was introduced as a pilot program. That pilot program has been in place since June 8, 2017. The below adjustments to Board policy manual section 1.4.H make the pilot program for public comment permanent. This policy language has been reviewed by Board Office staff and is submitted as a first reading.

**Board of Regents Policy 1.4**

H. Public Comment

- ~~i.~~ The universities, special schools and the Board Office will allow for additional access to public comment from Iowans.
- ii.i. A public comment hearing **period** will be held at each university, at the Board Office and at the special schools prior to each Board of Regents meeting **regularly scheduled, in-person meetings of the Board. There will not be public comment at telephonic meetings or special meetings called by the Board.**
  - a. Students, faculty, parents, alumni and citizens have an opportunity to provide comments on any issue affecting the Board of Regents ~~including the upcoming Board meeting agenda,~~ **with priority given to presenters with subjects that relate to agenda items for the current Board meeting.**
  - b. ~~Each hearing shall last a minimum of one hour~~ **The Board will allow for up to 30 minutes in total for public comment. An individual will be permitted up to three minutes to speak. This will be tracked by a timekeeper.**
  - c. ~~The Transparency Officers or designees will preside at each hearing~~ **When the Board's docket for a regularly scheduled, in-person meeting is made public, all persons requesting to speak must register by completing an online form. A link to the sign-up portal will be available when the docket for that meeting is public.**
  - d. ~~The dates and times of the public hearings are staggered to maximize public input~~ **Registered requests to present to the Board must be received no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.**
  - e. ~~Each public hearing shall be video recorded and posted on the Board of Regents web site. A link to the video recordings shall be forwarded to each member of the Board of Regents.~~ **Presenters will be organized by the Board Office, and confirmed speakers will be contacted via e-mail no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.**

- f. ~~Comments received during each public hearing shall be reviewed by the officers of the Board of Regents to determine if an issue raised during a public hearing should be placed on a future meeting agenda of the Board of Regents or if persons testifying at the public hearing should be invited to appear before the Board of Regents.~~ **Handouts are allowed to be distributed to the Board. Presenters should bring 20 copies of materials for the Board to receive. Materials will be distributed to the Board during the speaker's comments.**
- g. ~~A written public comment option will be established for all docket decision items on each Board of Regents agenda.~~ **Public commenters are subject to the rules governing public attendance at Board meetings (Board Policy Manual 1.4.F).**
- h. **The public comment rules may be adjusted at the discretion of the Board President.**