

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
STATE OF IOWA**

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
OCTOBER 29, 2008**

**Contact: Robert Donley**

**ASSAULT POLICY UPDATE – APPROVAL OF OVERARCHING POLICY STATEMENT**

The policy statement will be distributed at the October 29 Board meeting.

The Board's October 20 press release on the policy review process is included as Attachment A.

**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 Lab Regents Resource Center  
Quad-Cities Graduate Center  
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center  
Tri-State Graduate Center



BOARD OF  
REGENTS  
STATE OF IOWA

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Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

October 20, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Miles, President, Board of Regents, State of Iowa, (515) 281-3934  
Annette Lynch, Flagship Director, Campus Gender Violence Prevention Project  
(319) 273-3054

**Regent Universities Proceeding with Assault Policy Review with Department of Justice Grant**

(URBANDALE, Iowa) – The Board of Regents has finalized an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice for the use of grant funds for a comprehensive review of the sexual assault policies and procedures at the state universities. This review responds to the Board of Regents resolution adopted September 25, 2008, which directs all of the Board's institutions to develop common policies and procedures dealing with sexual assault consistent with standards and best practices available in the higher education community. The policies will address the specific recommendations developed by The Stolar Partnership based on its investigation of the University of Iowa's handling of an alleged sexual assault.

The policy review is funded by a portion of a \$1 million Flagship grant awarded in 2007 to the University of Northern Iowa from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The grant, which funds the Campus Gender Violence Prevention Project, was awarded to UNI in recognition of its established programs and policies on the prevention of gender violence, which have served as model programs for other campuses across the country. The University of Northern Iowa is one of only four institutions across the country that received this Flagship grant.

Consistent with the Board of Regents directive, the specific purpose of this flagship-led initiative is for the University of Northern Iowa to work with the University of Iowa and Iowa State University to develop and implement national best practice sexual assault and misconduct policies and procedures on all three campuses. The final policy will be inclusive of all five Regent institutions. The Campus Gender Violence Prevention Project is led by Professor Annette Lynch of the UNI Department of Design, Textiles, Gerontology and Family Studies; Professor Lynch is leading the policy review effort.

The policy review will include participation from the three Regent universities, the Department of Justice and its consultants, Schuster and Clifford, who have national expertise on sexual assault policies and procedures, and the Board Office. The study will include campus site visits.

“I commend the universities for their efforts in quickly initiating this review process, particularly in securing grant funding from the Department of Justice for this initiative,” said Board of Regents President David Miles. “The involvement of the Department of Justice and its consultants will provide important national expertise on sexual assault policies to ensure a comprehensive review of the policies at the Regent universities. I further appreciate the universities’ commitment to completing this review in a timely manner.”

As requested by the Board of Regents, the sexual assault policies and procedures to be developed for the universities will be presented to the Board at its meeting on December 10-11, 2008. Prior to that, a progress report will be presented to the Board at its October 29, 2008, meeting.

The Board of Regents resolution approved on September 25, 2008, which outlines the ten recommendations of The Stolar Partnership, can be found at the following link to the Board of Regents web site: <http://www2.state.ia.us/regents/News/Resolution092508.pdf>.

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