To: Executive Director Robert Donley
   President Sally Mason
   President Greg Geoffroy
   President Ben Allen
   Superintendent Jeanne Prickett
   Superintendent Patrick Clancy

From: David W. Miles, President

Re: Operations Efficiency Review and Coordination

Date: December 16, 2009

In response to the national economic downturn that resulted in an unprecedented reduction in state support over the past year, it is more important than ever for Iowa’s Public Universities and Special Schools to identify new efficiencies and cost saving opportunities that can be implemented quickly and, at the same time, protect or enhance the core mission of each institution.

As I am sure you are aware, the Governor and the General Assembly have begun their own examinations of state government to find efficiencies and cost saving measures. These efforts have resulted in a series of recommendations that have the potential to save the state millions of dollars while simultaneously improving the delivery of state services.

The Board of Regents is committed to excellent stewardship of state resources and is eager to coordinate with and assist in the efforts of all of state government to improve operational efficiencies. The Board shares the goal of economizing, yet protecting and maintaining state assets during these challenging economic times.

To this end, I am directing each of you to immediately undertake efforts to identify functions, processes and operations that can be further consolidated or streamlined and result in cost savings. I also ask that the Board Office, in consultation with each institution, immediately coordinate with the Department of Administrative Services, and other state agencies as appropriate, to seek opportunities that result in cost savings as these agencies begin to implement the recommendations outlined in the Iowa Efficiency Review Report and the list of recommendations adopted by the State Government Reorganization Interim Commission.
It is my expectation that your institutional review will include, but not be limited to, (1) the recommendations contained in the *Iowa Efficiency Report*, (2) the recommendations adopted by the State Government Reorganization Interim Commission, and (3) the provisions of Governor Culver’s Executive Order 20. Your review should also encompass the potential for greater inter-institutional cooperation that would achieve a net cost savings, as well as further cost saving refinements that can be made in your benefits and compensation systems.

I further direct the Board Office to present at the February 4, 2010 Board of Regents meeting, and quarterly thereafter, a report identifying those measures which have been undertaken at the institutional level and those measures which have been undertaken in cooperation with other state agencies. These reports shall identify savings or efficiencies which have been achieved, and shall be forwarded to the Iowa Department of Management for inclusion in status reports prepared by that Office.

All five Regent institutions have a long history of increased efficiency, enhanced productivity, and internal reallocations of resources to ensure the success of the Board of Regents’ core mission of benefitting Iowans through education, research, and service. The review outlined above is meant to ensure that all cost effective solutions are being utilized, and that we work with our state government colleagues to identify opportunities of joint benefit to save Iowa taxpayer dollars and increase service to our constituents.

h/communications/IBOR efficiency memo 121609
cc: Board of Regents