January 28, 2010

The Honorable Chester J. Culver, Governor
State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Culver:

This letter provides information about the meeting of the Board of Regents on February 3 and 4 at Iowa State University. The meeting materials are available on the Regent website at the following address:

www.regents.iowa.gov/Meetings/DocketMemos/agendaitems.html

I am available at any time to answer questions about the meeting materials or any other matter.

On February 3, the Board will conduct mid-year evaluations of the five institutional heads and Executive Director. Each individual has requested per the Iowa Code that the evaluation be conducted in closed session.

Following the mid-year evaluations, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Downer will meet. The Board will receive a report on the year-to-date activities of the UIHC including patient volume, length of stay statistics, inpatient and outpatient surgeries and comparative financials for the current and prior year. The UIHC will review with the Board the proposed Iowa River Landing project. The presentation will include financial and construction plans for the proposed outpatient facility to be located in Coralville. More detail on this project may be found on the Board’s website as an attachment to the committee’s agenda.

On February 4, the Board’s Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Jack Evans will meet. The committee will review numerous internal audits along with external audit reports for the years ended June 30, 2007, and June 30, 2008, for the University of Iowa Health System and subsidiaries.

The Board will be asked to consider tuition increases the 2010-2011 academic year. The Board first considered tuition increases at its October meeting but tabled the discussion and decision until February so that it would have as much information as possible on state revenue projections.
The proposal in front of the Board at the February meeting is the same as that presented in October. Student government leaders were notified in accordance with the Iowa Code prior to the October meeting of the proposal.

An increase of 6% is proposed for undergraduate resident tuition and graduate student increases, as follows:

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Board of Regents policy requires a minimum of 15% of gross tuition proceeds be set-aside for student financial aid. The proposed set-aside percentages for financial aid for FY 2011 are: SUI – 17%; ISU – 22%; and UNI – 18%. More details on the proposed increase may be found in Agenda Item #7.

Other agenda items include:

- Dr. Mick Starcevich, President of Kirkwood Community College and chair of the Community Colleges Seamless Transition Committee, will share the perspective of the community colleges about current and future articulation efforts with the Regent universities.

- The Board will consider a request to authorize the University of Iowa to proceed with its plan to relocate the School of Music and Hancher Auditorium. The university proposes to relocate the School of Music facilities including Clapp Recital Hall to land along either side of Clinton Street immediately south of downtown and the east campus. This land is all privately held, and the university will report back to the Board at its April meeting whether or not the acquisition of land was successful. If the university is not successful in acquiring this land, a site north and west of the school’s former location will be recommended to the Board. The university proposes to relocate Hancher Auditorium and associated parking to university-owned land in the west campus, north and west of the current location. More detail along with maps of the proposed locations may be found in Agenda Item #8.
• The Board will consider approval of the university's recommendation for an architect for the replacement of the University of Iowa’s flood-damaged Art Building. The firm recommended is BNIM-Iowa (Des Moines)/Steven Holl Architects (New York).

• The Board will consider approval of Grow Iowa Values Fund proposals from three private colleges – Luther College, Clarke College and Upper Iowa University. More detail on these projects may be found in Agenda Item #13.

• The Board will receive a report on the early retirement programs approved in 2009 and consider approval of a second early retirement program at the University of Iowa. A total of 665 faculty and staff participated in early retirement programs at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. The Board approved a second early retirement program for ISU at its October meeting.

• The Board will receive a report from the Access and Affordability Advisory Committee. The committee was established last year to address the Board’s goals to lower average student debt and to increase the participation of low income students at the Regent universities. The committee developed seven proposals to respond to these goals. Agenda Item #15 outlines each of these proposals along with implementation action plans.

• The Board will receive reports on steps taken and progress made toward addressing the recommendations contained in the Iowa Efficiency Report, the recommendations adopted by the State Government Reorganization Interim Committee and the provisions of Executive Order 20.

• The Board will receive a presentation from Dr. Steve Martin, professor in the College of Engineering, and Seth Berbano, an undergraduate student in the Department of Materials Engineering. The presentation will describe the research opportunities for undergraduates in the research area of non-equilibrium materials.

The Board will receive a number of annual governance reports:

• Annual Diversity Report which includes the Minority and Women’s Educators Enhancement Report and the Affirmative Action Cost Report. These reports are required by Iowa Code. More detail may be found in Agenda Item #6h.

• Comprehensive Human Resources Report which includes among other reports the report of faculty salary rankings. Survey data indicates that rankings of faculty salaries for ISU and SUI within their 11-member peer groups remained the same as in the previous year – 8th for SUI and 11th for ISU. UNI ranking dropped from 4th to 5th. More detail may be found in Agenda Item #6i.

• Facilities Governance Report. The report indicates that Regent facilities total 35.3 million gross square feet which includes 17.3 million gross square feet of academic/research/administrative facilities. More detail may be found in Agenda Item #6j.

• Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates which includes the annual update of enrollment and graduation of women and minorities from STEM programs at the Regent universities. More detail may be found in Agenda Item #19.
• 2008-09 Distance Education Report. The report indicates that the Regent universities have increased their distance education offerings from 67 in 2004-05 to 209 in 2008-09. More detail may be found in Agenda Item #20.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

David W. Miles

cc: Lt. Governor Patty Judge
Molly Kottmeyer, Policy Liaison, Governor’s Office
Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa