February 16, 2016

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad, Governor
State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA  50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

This letter provides information about the meeting of the Board of Regents on February 24 and 25 at Iowa State University in Ames.

The meeting materials are available on the Regents 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. Audio streaming of the meeting may be accessed through the Board of Regents website.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, the Board will conduct mid-year evaluations of President Leath, President Ruud, President Harreld, Superintendent Gettel and Executive Director Donley. All individuals have requested, in accordance with Iowa Code, that their evaluations take place in closed session.

The Property and Facilities Committee, chaired by Regent Dakovich, will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24. The committee will review the annual Facilities Governance Report which provides the Board with a broad overview of the facilities at the institutions and the condition of those facilities. Academic/research/administrative (general fund) facilities at Regent institutions total approximately 18.1 million gross square feet of the total 38.5 million gross square feet of Regent enterprise facilities. Categories of other facilities include University Hospitals and Clinics, agricultural experiment station, and self-supporting operations, including student unions, residence systems and parking systems. The FY 2016 replacement value of all Regent facilities is estimated at $18.5 billion, of which $9.1 billion is the replacement value for academic/research/administrative facilities. The Regent institutions have a total of 4,498 on-campus acres and 758 off-campus acres, excluding farm acreage. It is estimated that to correct fire safety deficiencies would cost $9.8 million. For Fall 2015, the Regent institutions reported a total of $751.4 million in deferred maintenance in general fund facilities and utilities. More information may be found in P&F item 2.

The committee will consider the register of capital projects for the University of Iowa (P&F item 3). The first project to consider will be the renovation and build-out of the Russell and Ann Gerdin Athletic Center. This project, which will provide upgraded collaborative study rooms, lounge spaces and tutoring rooms to better address the needs of student-athletes, will cost an estimated $5 million and be funded by athletic department gifts and earnings.
The second project to consider will be relocation of the cardiovascular procedure recovery unit to level four of the Roy J. Carver Pavilion. This space is adjacent to the catheterization labs and will enhance patient care as well as create several improved efficiencies. The estimated project cost of $10 to $11 million would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.

The third project for consideration will be the John Colloton Pavilion material services, processed stores relocation to support central sterilization services expansion. Continuing growth in operative procedures and patient census have necessitated more area for larger volumes of instruments and patient equipment. The estimated project cost of $4 to $5 million would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.

The fourth project to consider will be the relocation of the UIHC neurology and neonatology faculty offices to level eight of the John Colloton Pavilion, due to an increase in faculty and clinic visits. The estimated project cost of $7 million would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.

The committee will also consider the register of Iowa State University capital improvement projects (P&F item 4). The first project is the remodeling of bathrooms in Richardson Court Resident Halls. This project would remodel bathrooms in six residence halls: Birch, Welch, Roberts, Barton, Lyon and Freeman Halls. It will implement ADA accessibility, update inefficient mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems and upgrade lighting, improve energy use and increase privacy. The estimated cost of $3.8 million would be funded by dormitory system funds.

The second project to consider is a revised project description and budget for the Bessey Hall and Advanced Teaching and Research Building (ATRB) projects. The revised budget of $88 million (an increase of $8 million) will allow for the reintroduction of the atrium, elevator, north stair and north site/entry, the increased design professional fees for the redesign of these reintroduced items, and construction market price escalations that exceeded initial estimates.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland, will also meet at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24. The committee will hear a presentation on enhancing affordability through student financial aid and bookstore operations (ASAC item 2).

The committee will receive the annual distance education report (ASAC item 3). The report indicates an increase of 9.9 percent of enrollment in distance education credit courses over the prior year. Distance education opportunities were available in 833 communities in all 99 Iowa counties. The committee will also receive a report on faculty resignations (ASAC item 6). In FY 2015, there were 90 faculty resignations at SUI, 33 at ISU and seven at UNI. Compared to the previous year, SUI saw an increase in resignations from 66 to 90, ISU’s resignations decreased from 35 to 33, and UNI’s decreased from eight to seven.

The committee will also receive an update on the implementation of the Northeast Regional Academy (NERA) pilot project in the Charles City Community School District (ASAC item 10), as well as a presentation on the collaboration of the three Regent universities to establish a regional chapter of the national Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (ASAC item 11). In addition, the committee will receive a report from the Campus Safety and Security Subcommittee (ASAC item 12).

The committee will also consider approval at the request of the University of Iowa to name the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Academy at the Blein-Blank Center as the Martin and Melva Bucksbaum STEAM Academy (ASAC item 13). The $10 million
gift from Mary Bucksbaum and Patrick Scanlon is in honor of her deceased parents, Martin and Melva Bucksbaum.

On Thursday, February 24, the Board will have breakfast with student leaders from the Regent universities at 8:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m., the Audit/Compliance Committee, chaired by Regent McKibben, will meet. The committee will review numerous internal audit reports, the investment and cash management report for the most recent quarter, and the external audit report for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee, chaired by Regent Andringa, will meet following the Audit/Compliance Committee. The committee will receive the operational and financial performance report, review proposed amendments to the bylaws of UIHC and clinical staff, and receive a faculty presentation on lung transplantation.

The full Board will receive the Residence System Governance Report (agenda item 9), which provides university residence systems five-year plans (FY 2017-FY 2021), preliminary residence system budgets for FY 2017, and proposed residence system rates for AY 2016-2017.

Other agenda items for consideration by the full Board include:

- The Board will receive two faculty presentations. One is on biobased chemicals through advanced biomanufacturing, while the other is on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory.

- Each of the institutional heads will provide an update on campus activities.

- The Board will also receive updates on the Higher Education Needs Assessment and the development of the 2016-2021 Board of Regents Strategic Plan.

- The Board will receive bids for the sale and award of two sets of bonds totaling an estimated $43.15 million. Additional information is available in agenda items 14a and 14b.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Rastetter

cc: Lt. Governor Kimberly Reynolds  
Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa