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January 31, 2012

The Honorable Terry 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 6 and 7, 2012, at Iowa State University beginning at 9 a.m. on the 6th. The morning of the first day will be spent conducting mid-year evaluations with the institutional heads and Executive Director. In compliance with the statute, each individual has requested the evaluation take place in closed session. 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.

Audio streaming for the meeting may be accessed through the Board of Regents website.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Downer will meet on the first day following the mid-year evaluations. The committee will review year-to-date financial information and consider the University of Iowa Health Care Master Plan and new UI Children’s Hospital.

The Economic Development Committee will meet beginning at 4 p.m. on February 6. The committee is chaired by President Pro Tem Bruce Rastetter with Regent David Miles serving as Vice Chair. The committee will receive a presentation from each of the universities on economic development activities.

The following individuals are members of the committee. Kim Reynolds, Lieutenant Governor, Iowa; Steve Carter, President of ISU Research Park/Director, Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship, ISU; Jordan Cohen, Vice President for Research/Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Iowa; Debi Durham, Director, Iowa Department of Economic Development; Miguel Encarnação, Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer at ACT, Inc., Iowa City; Jim Gossett, Executive Director for the Carroll Area Development Corporation and Carroll Chamber of Commerce; Lisa Lorenzen, Executive Director, ISU Research Foundation and Director, Office of Intellectual Property.
and Technology Transfer, ISU; **Kathleen (Kate) Minette**, Senior Vice President Operations and Scoring for Pearson; **Sharron Quisenberry**, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, ISU/Professor of Entomology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Randy Pilkington**, Executive Director of Business and Community Services/Director, Institute for Decision Making and John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, UNI; and **Elliott Smith**, Executive Director of the Iowa Business Council, a non-partisan business policy development association based in Des Moines.

The reactivated Education and Student Affairs Committee chaired by Regent Katie Mulholland will also meet at 4 p.m. on the 6th. The committee will consider accreditation reports for the College of Medicine and the Master of Arts Program in Speech-Language Pathology and the Doctor of Audiology Program at the University of Iowa. The committee will review a new program in athletic training at ISU and consider the termination of graduate programs in science education at SUI.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, chaired by Regent Evans, will meet at 8:30 a.m. on the 7th. The committee will receive a report from the Auditor of State regarding a special investigation of the UNI centralized ticketing office. The committee will also review numerous internal audits and the external audits for the UIHC and UI Health Systems and Subsidiaries.

Board agenda items are summarized below:

The Board will receive three annual governance reports – the Diversity Report (Agenda Item #8c); the Comprehensive Human Resources Report (Agenda Item #8h), the Facilities Report (Agenda Item #8i), and the Distance Education Report (Agenda Item #22).

The Board will receive oral updates from each of the institutional heads relating to safety of minors on Regent campuses.

The University of Iowa Capital Register (Agenda Item #10) includes two utility projects for Board consideration. The first project is the installation of a natural gas boiler in the power plan, and the second is upgrades to the chilled water system.

The Iowa State University Capital Register (Agenda Item #11) includes a request for consideration of a project for fire safety improvements in Friley Hall and a request to consider a revised budget for phase one of the Curtiss Hall renovation project.

The University of Northern Iowa Capital Register (Agenda Item #12) contains a request to approve the Redeker Center Expansion project.

The Board is also asked to approve the demolition of two houses owned by UNI. The site of one of the houses will be used for construction of a portion of the parking lot for Panther Village Apartments. The second home needs significant repairs to make it a viable rental property.

The Board is asked to consider approval of awarding GIVF funding (Agenda Item #14) for projects at Grandview University and Central College. The awards would be $50,000 to Grandview for funding of a project relating to treatments for diabetes and $10,000 to Central College for a project relating to the restoration of prairie ecosystems.
Regent David Miles will provide an oral update on the Board’s accountability initiatives.

The Board will receive updates from the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School on flood and storm recovery projects.

The Board will sell athletic facilities revenue bonds (Agenda Item #21a) in the estimated amount of the $25.8 million. The proceeds from the sale would be used to fund the Football Training Facility project and to refund the outstanding principal of the bonds issued to partially finance the Bergstrom Indoor Multipurpose Use and Training Facility.

The Board will receive presentation from Dr. Doug Gruenewald, Co-Director of the ISU Communities. Dr. Gruenewald will provide an overview of learning communities and their impact on students and student success at ISU.

The Board will consider selection of a promotional services vendor (Agenda Item #24). A Request for Proposal (RFP) was distributed in accordance with Board policy, and eight proposals were received. Interviews were conducted with four firms. This arose out of a discussion the Board had with university student leadership where the students proposed that the Board assist them in the planning and execution of a campaign to help build public awareness and sustainable support within Iowa for the vital contributions of Iowa’s public universities.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Lang

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