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Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 2:26 PM
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Cc: Sara Hobson (shobson@summitfarms.com); 'Carla McComb'
Subject: Board of Regents Meeting, April 22-23, 2015

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April 14, 2015

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 April 22-23 at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

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 of the meeting may be accessed through the Board of Regents website.

The Board will tour various facilities on the campus of the Iowa School for the Deaf on Wednesday.

Outgoing Regents – Bob Downer, Hannah Walsh and Ruth Harkin -- will be recognized at a dinner on Wednesday evening. Newly confirmed Regents Mary Andringa, Patty Cownie and Rachael Johnson have been invited to attend the meeting.

As is customary, the Board will meet for breakfast with the student leaders from the three universities on Thursday morning, April 23.

The Property and Facilities Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on April 23. The committee, chaired by Regent Dakovich, will review the University of Iowa capital register. The register contains one project. The university is asking for approval of the project description and budget ($15.8 million) for a project to install new pollution control equipment to meet new, more stringent federal emissions requirements for the steam generating boilers at the main power plant. The project would be funded by utility system revenue bond proceeds. More information on this project may be found in P&F Agenda Item #2. The committee will also consider the capital register for the University of Northern Iowa. The register contains a request for permission to proceed with planning for renovations to Lawther Hall. The project would modernize the residence hall built in 1938 and 1950 to provide semi-suites and other room configurations to meet the needs of sophomore and junior level students while maintaining the historical integrity
of the facility. The anticipated project budget of $21 million is based upon a recently completed feasibility study.

The committee will be asked to consider a request by Iowa State University to name the Jack Trice end zone club as the Sukup End Zone Club in honor of the Sukup family of Sheffield, Iowa. The Sukups have made a substantial multi-million dollar commitment to the Athletic Department, a portion of which is committed to construction of the $53 million dollar end zone project. The Sukup family has a long history of generous giving to ISU, including Sukup Hall (one of the buildings in the Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering complex), the Sukup Basketball Complex, the Hixson-Lied Student Success Center, and the Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods.

The Education and Student Affairs Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland will also meet on April 23 at 9 a.m. The committee will review the Annual Governance Report on Faculty Tenure. The report includes approval of promotion and tenure actions for the academic year beginning this fall. The University of Iowa is requesting approval of 113 promotion and tenure actions; Iowa State University, 70; and the University of Northern Iowa, 26. The remainder of the report provides analysis of promotion and tenure actions occurring in the 2014-15 academic year. In 2014-15 the number of tenured faculty at the universities was 2,681, a slight decrease from the prior year. The number of tenure-track faculty was 821, an increase of 3.4% from the prior year. More than 76% of the tenure-eligible faculty at the universities is tenured. More information on the annual report may be found in ESAC Agenda Item #3.

The committee will also review the annual report of student retention and graduation rates which was tabled from the March meeting. The report is in two parts. The first part provides information on retention rates as well as four- and six-year graduation rates of first-time, full-time freshmen and transfer students. The second part includes the annual update of enrollment and graduation of women and minorities from STEM programs at the Regent universities. Some highlights of the report include: (1) an average of approximately 84.7% of the past 10 entering classes at the Regent universities returned for the second year of studies; (2) one year retention rates have consistently exceeded the national averages; (3) an average of 67.7% of the past 10 entering classes at the Regent universities graduated within six years; (4) six-year graduation rates at the Regent universities have consistently exceeded the national averages (5) undergraduate enrollment in STEM programs increased from 24,409 in 2013 to 25,841 in 2014 – 5.9%; (6) undergraduate minority enrollment in STEM programs increased 17.6% and undergraduate women enrollment in STEM programs increased 6%. More specific information on the report may be found in ESAC Agenda Item #4.

The committee will review two agenda items relative to student financial aid. The first is the Annual Student Financial Aid Report (ESAC Agenda Item #5). The report describes the volume of student financial aid awarded at the three universities. In 2013-14, the total amount of financial aid awarded was $1,008,117,702 which is an increase of 1% over the prior year. Of the total amount of financial aid awarded, 52.3% came from federal funds, 0.6% from state funds, 36.7% from institutional funds and 10.4% from other sources. The report also provides information on the average indebtedness for those students graduating with debt. Average indebtedness for University of Iowa students was $27,581; Iowa State University, $27,940; and University of Northern Iowa, $23,163.

The committee will also review the Annual Regent Student Financial Aid Study. The annual study was designed in response to the Board’s request for information regarding the socio-economic status of students who receive financial aid. The study analyzes student financial aid by adjusted family income of a segment of the population of financial aid recipients and looks at characteristics of students receiving financial aid. More details on this annual study may be found in ESAC Agenda Item #6.
The committee will receive a presentation by staff of the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Standards of Practice (SOP) in areas of literacy and mathematics. The SOP represent those best practices in literacy and mathematics for teaching students who are blind or visually impaired and were developed to ensure that students who receive services anywhere in the state will have the same learning opportunities regardless of their locations.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent Downer will review the numerous state audit reports with Auditor of State Mary Mosiman. Chief Audit Executive Todd Stewart will review original and follow-up internal audit reports with the committee. External audit reports of Iowa Public Radio and the Regional Study Centers will also be reviewed.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee will review a proposal from the UIHC for a FY 2016 rate increase of 6%. The year-to-date report of operational and financial performance and the FY 2016 operating budget will be reviewed.

Agenda items for consideration by the full Board include the following:

The Board will receive reports on campus activities from Presidents Mason, Leath, and Ruud and Superintendent Gettel.

Keeping with the Board’s longstanding practice, the Executive Director invited nonorganized faculty and staff groups to make brief presentations to the Board relating to salary issues for FY 2016.

The Board will consider approval of the proposed rates for room and board at the universities for the 2015-2016 academic year. The residence systems are self-supporting operations and do not receive state appropriations for operations or capital improvements. The universities provide numerous room and board options to students. Rate increases for a double room with primary meal plans are 3.15% for SUI, 3.07% for ISU and 3.41% for UNI. The rate proposals were presented to the Board at its March meeting with final approval scheduled for April. Agenda Item #8 contains details on the rate proposals.

The Board will receive updates on the TIER study and the University of Iowa presidential search.

The Board will receive bids for the sale of $30 million in dormitory revenue bonds. The proceeds from the sale will be used to partially fund the Buchanan Residence Hall – Building #2 and the Friley Residence Hall – Dining Renovation.

The Board will consider various appointments to committees, boards and commissions. President Pro Tem Katie Mulholland will continue as chair of the Education and Student Affairs Committee and will represent the Board on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact replacing outgoing Regent Bob Downer and on the Iowa College Student Aid Commission replacing outgoing Regent Hannah Walsh. Mary Andringa will chair the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee. Larry McKibben will chair the Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, and Milt Dakovich will continue to chair the Property and Facilities Committee. Sherry Bates will represent the Board on the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board.
The Board will receive a presentation by students and staff at ISD about the successful transition of the school’s young adult 4-PLUS students into independent life.

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