November 19, 2014

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

Dear Governor Branstad:

This letter provides information about the meetings of the Board of Regents on December 3 at the Iowa State University in Ames.

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 Property and Facilities Committee chaired by Regent Dakovich will meet via conference phone beginning at 9:15 a.m. Among the agenda items to be considered is the University of Iowa capital register. One of the projects included on the register (P&F Agenda Item #2) is the request to proceed with project planning for the UIHC Pediatric Clinic Expansion and Conference Center project. The estimated cost ($39 million) of the project will be funded by University Hospitals Building Usage Funds. The project would develop a new pediatric specialty clinic in the John Colloton and John Pappajohn pavilions and create a conference center.

Other University of Iowa capital projects include approval of the project design and budget ($3.2 million) to renovate the 3rd and 4th floors of Currier Residence Hall. The project includes replacing window sills, painting, replacing flooring, replacing galvanized pipe and installing high efficiency air conditioning units in student rooms.

The Iowa State University register includes a request for approval of the schematic design, project description and budget for construction of Buchanan Residence Hall – Building #2. The project would construct a new residence hall to provide 700 beds and community and support space. The project would be financed by proceeds from the sale of dormitory revenue bonds. The register also includes a request for a revised budget for the Phase 3 Jack Trice Stadium south end zone project. More specifics on the projects may be found in P&F Agenda Item #3.
The Education and Student Affairs Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland will meet at 10:30 a.m. on December 3 at the Alumni Center on the ISU campus. The committee will consider approval of requests for Professional Development Assignments (PDAs) for FY 2016 as specified in Iowa Code §262.19. The Board directed the universities to limit the number of PDAs to not more than three percent of the faculty. A total of 110 PDAs (overall approximately 1.5% of eligible faculty) are requested for FY 2016 – SUI, 56; ISU, 37 and 17 at UNI. ESAC Agenda #3 provides detail on the rigorous review process on each campus and provides a brief description of what each faculty members plans to accomplish during the PDA.

The committee will also receive the report of the PDAs taken in FY 2014. There were 124 PDAs approved for FY 2014. The replacement cost for these PDAs was projected to be $510,093. It is estimated the external grant funding received as a result of the PDAs was $12 million. The attachments to ESAC Agenda Item #4 outline the accomplishments of the PDAs and state whether or not the objectives of the PDAs were met.

The Education Committee will review the annual report on articulation activities (ESAC Agenda Item #5) as required by Iowa Code §262.9 (33) which directs the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa public community colleges and the Board to collaborate on articulation efforts. Some highlights of the report include – more than 1,000 individual agreements exist between Iowa’s public universities and community colleges; more than 10,000 students transfer credit annually from community colleges to public universities; and from October 2013 to September 2014, the articulation website, TransferinIowa.org, had approximately 9,000 unique visitors. More detail in the report may be found in the agenda item.

The Education Committee will consider approval of the awarding of four honorary degrees as follows:

- University of Northern Iowa – Honorable Tom Harkin at the Spring 2015 or Fall 2015 commencement;
- University of Northern Iowa – Gayle S. Rose at the Spring 2015 or Fall 2015 commencement;
- University of Northern Iowa – Simon Estes at the Spring 2015 or Fall 2015 commencement;
- University of Iowa – William M. Bryson at the Spring 2015 commencement

More details on these four individuals may be found in ESAC Agenda Items #9, 10, 11, and 12.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Carroll will meet at 1 p.m. The committee will receive an update on operating and financial performance of the hospital.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent Downer will meet following the UIHC Committee.

The full Board will convene following the meeting of the Audit Committee. Agenda items are summarized below.
The Board will consider approval of tuition and mandatory fees for the 2015-2016 academic year. Student leaders made presentations to the Board at the October meeting about the proposal to increase resident tuition at the universities by 1.75% ($116) for the 2015-2016 academic year. Under the proposal, nonresident tuition would be increased 1.75% at the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa and 1.2% at Iowa State University. Tuition revenues from the increases proposed in October would amount to $4.5 million. There was discussion by Board members at that time about the possibility of freezing tuition for a third year. Agenda Item #5 provides details about the lost revenue should the Board vote to freeze tuition.

The Board will receive bids for the sale of $16.5 million utility system revenue bonds for Iowa State University to partially fund the stoker boiler replacement project. This bond issue is the second of two series of bonds issued for the project.

At the end of the day, the Board will meet in closed to discuss collective bargaining strategy in accordance with Iowa Code §20.17 (3).

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