November 17, 2015

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 December 2. The meeting will be held 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.

The Property and Facilities Committee, chaired by Regent Dakovich, will meet at 10 a.m. Among the agenda items to be considered is the University of Iowa register of capital improvement projects (P&F item 2). The first project to consider is phase two of the repair/replacement of the steam tunnel along Grand Avenue/Riverside Drive. This project is estimated to cost $15.2 million and would be funded by utility system revenue bonds.

The second project is consideration for approval of the description and budget for the renovation of Daum Residence Hall. This project would upgrade the finishes in the building, including flooring and paint in the student rooms and corridors, as well as renovation of elevator lobbies. The estimated project cost of $3.8 million would be funded by university housing renewal and improvement funds. The work would occur over three summer breaks.

The committee will also consider the recommendation for the naming of a facility on the University of Iowa campus (P&F item 3). Details of the naming will be provided prior to the Board meeting.

The committee will consider the Iowa State University register of capital improvement projects (P&F item 4). The first project is to request approval of the schematic design, project description and budget for renovations of the Forker Building. This would renovate underutilized men’s locker room space on the ground floor. The improvements would create new and additional graduate student open offices and restrooms, and replace the exterior windows in the renovated office area. The project would also create a mezzanine floor over an existing gym to provide space for new mechanical equipment; it would also provide a fully automatic fire sprinkler system throughout the building. The project would cost $5.53 million and would be funded by university funds.
The second project is to request approval of the schematic design, project description and budget of $11.5 million for phase three of Jack Trice Stadium improvements. This phase would create a 10 acre site “Green Space” enhancement south of the stadium. This will create a more welcoming entrance to Iowa State University’s campus from the south, improve/clarify the existing entrance to Reiman Gardens and create a plaza space between Reiman Gardens and Jack Trice Stadium for a variety of special events, including game day activities. The project would be funded by private giving, athletics facilities bonds, athletic department and university funds.

The third project is to request approval of a revised project description and budget ($7,900,000, an increase of $1,700,000) for the renovation of the Friley Residence Hall dining area. This project would covert inactive dining space and corresponding kitchen area into a food court concept with four venues, supporting storage rooms, student and private dining space and a new exterior entry. The budget revision reflects additional costs to meet an increase in project scope. This project will be funded by dormitory system revenue bonds and residence system funds.

The committee will also consider the request for the demolition of the Spangler Geotechnical Lab and Storage building on the campus of Iowa State University (P&F item 5).

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland, will meet at 10:30 a.m. The committee will hear a presentation on Iowa State University’s predictive analytics program, which identifies and assists academically at-risk students.

The committee will consider approval of requests for Professional Development Assignments (PDAs) for FY 2017 as specified in Iowa Code §262.9 (ASAC item 3). A total of 100 PDAs were requested at an expected replacement cost of $469,054.

The committee will also receive the report of the PDAs taken in FY 2015 (ASAC item 4). There were 124 PDAs approved for FY 2015. PDAs provide increased visibility and prominence of faculty in research and scholarship. Last year, the replacement cost of PDAs ($438,879) was leveraged with over $10.6 million in new grant money that resulted from those assignments.

The committee will review the annual report on articulation activities (ASAC 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. Highlights of the report include more than 1,000 individual agreements in existence between Iowa’s public universities and community colleges; more than 10,000 students transferring credit annually from community colleges to public universities; and from October 2014 to September 2015, the articulation website, TransferInIowa.org, having approximately 9,529 unique visitors.

The committee will hear a report on the Iowa Research and Development Center for Educational Transformation at the University of Northern Iowa (ASAC item 6). This report provides the background, model, approach, and structure for the center. The university is committed to leading statewide efforts that will optimize resources, capitalize on existing research, leverage research funding, and build capacity for a community of scholars.

The committee will consider approval of the awarding of two honorary degrees as follows:

Iowa State University – Dame DeAnne Julius at Fall 2015 commencement
Iowa State University – Eugene G. Sukup at Fall 2015 commencement
It is anticipated the full Board will convene at 12:30 p.m.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Andringa will meet and receive the operating and financial performance report.

The Board will consider approval of proposed conditional 2016-2017 tuition and mandatory fees. For the Spring 2016 semester, undergraduate resident tuition was raised 3 percent for Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. It is proposed that tuition for undergraduate resident students at the University of Iowa be increased by 3 percent for FY 2017, with no increase proposed for undergraduate residents at Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. Agenda item 5 has additional details.

Other Board agenda items include the following:

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

- Bond Sales – The Board will receive bids for the sale and award of two sets of bonds totaling an estimated $30.37 million. Additional information is available in Agenda items 9a and 9b.

- The Board will consider taking action on the TIER recommendations made by Pappas and Ad Astra at the October Board of Regents meeting.

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