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 June 4-5, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus 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 Board will have breakfast with the student leaders at 8 a.m. on the first day of the meeting.

The Property and Facilities Committee chaired by Regent Dakovich will meet at 9 a.m. on the first day. The committee will consider the FY 2016 Capital Plans (P&F Item #2). The plans include an overview of anticipated new capital improvement projects with budgets estimated to exceed $250,000. The plans also provide status reports on previously approved projects with budgets exceeding $1 million.

The committee will consider the capital register for the University of Iowa. All the projects on the register pertain to the UIHC. The first is a request to begin planning for a project to expand the Pathology Core Lab located in the Carver Pavilion. Additional laboratory space is needed to provide Human Leukocyte Antigen testing which is currently being performed at outside laboratories. The estimated project cost is $6 to $8 million to be funded by hospital building usage funds. The second request is for approval of the schematic design and budget ($39 million) for the development of the pediatric specialty clinic and conference center in the John Colloton and John Pappajohn Pavilions. The design of the space fully considers the adjacencies of the projects and the new Children’s Hospital. The conference would provide a large 100-plus seat seminar room. The committee is also asked to consider project descriptions and budgets for two additional UIHC projects. The first, a utility project (budget $12 million), would serve the new Children’s Hospital, the new underground parking facility and other
hospital buildings. The second, a project for landscaping for the UIHC entrance plaza (budget $6.3 million), would create a pleasant park-like setting in the UIHC main entrance area. More details on these capital projects may be found in P&F Item #3.

The Iowa State University capital register contains requests for approval of schematic designs and budgets for two projects – an addition to Bessey Hall (estimated budget $28 million) and construction of the Advanced Teaching and Research Building (estimated budget $52 million). The Bessey Hall addition would construct an addition to the east side of the existing building and is part of a comprehensive plan to address the programmatic space needs of the biosciences programs. The project would be funded by state appropriations. The Advanced Teaching and Research Building would be constructed at the corner of Stange Road and Pammel Drive after demolishing the existing Industrial Education II, which was constructed in 1926. The new facility would house portions of the Entomology, Genetics, Development and Cell Biology, and Plant Pathology and Microbiology Departments. The project would be funded by state appropriations, university funds and private giving. More details on these capital projects may be found in P&F Item #5.

The capital register (P&F Item #6) for the University of Northern Iowa includes one project, renovation of the Schindler Education Center. The $34.9 million project would be funded by state appropriations, institutional funds, gifts and/or grants. The project will correct approximately $10 million in deferred maintenance. Following the renovation, the facility will continue to house the College of Education with state-of-the-art technology rich classrooms. The project will reorganize major components of the facility to provide appropriate relationships and promote collaboration.

The Education and Student Affairs Committee will also meet at 9 a.m. on the first day. President Pro Tem Katie Mulholland chairs the committee. The committee will receive a presentation on the Biological/Premedical Illustration Program at ISU. This is a shared program of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Design. The committee will review course changes at the University of Iowa. The report covers changes made since Spring 2014. Since that time, the university has added 368 courses and eliminated 216. The committee will review the report on the Title IIA grant program. In April 2015, first-year funding was awarded to three new multi-year projects. The federal program providing these funds has not been reauthorized, and there is likelihood Title IIA grant funds will be eliminated. Therefore, funding for multi-year projects is not a certainty. More detail on the projects may be found in ESAC Item #4. Brief descriptions of three projects funded follow:

Loras College – a project to provide professional development in mathematics and science for teachers in grades 5-8 in northeast Iowa. First-year funding was awarded in the amount of $153,534.

Drake University – a professional development program to increase the content knowledge and pedagogical efficacy in mathematics and science for participating elementary teachers. The program is a partnership among Des Moines Public School District, Drake University and Grand View University. First-year funding was awarded in the amount of $175,000.

University of Iowa – project will deliver professional development in STEM to 40 teachers in districts with an identified need to improve STEM teaching and help teachers implement argument-based teaching practices. First-year funding was awarded in the amount of $124,751.
The Education and Student Affairs Committee will hold two meetings prior to the June 4 meeting to review accreditation reports at ISU and UNI. The UNI meeting will be held on May 27, and the ISU meeting will be held on June 3. Agenda items for these two meetings may be found on the Board’s website.

The Audit Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent McKibben will meet following the Education and Student Affairs Committee and will review the Investment and Cash Management Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

The UIHC Committee chaired by Regent Andringa will meet following the Audit Committee. The Representatives of the UIHC will review year-to-date operating and financial performance with the committee. The committee will receive a presentation on “Cyber Anatomy” by Darren Hoffmann, Ph.D., Vice Chair of Educational Programs, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

Other Board agenda items include the following:

- University of Iowa Presidential Search -- Dr. Jean Robillard, chair of the Committee, will provide an update on the search.
- Annual Report on Campus Sustainability – the report (Agenda Item #3f) highlights some of the projects from the past year. Each university achieved a Gold rating in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). STARS encourages a comprehensive approach and vision to making college and university campuses living, learning laboratories for sustainable resource-efficient institutions.
- Bond Sales -- the Board will sell $25 million in utility system revenue bonds. The proceeds of the sale will be used to fund improvements to University of Iowa utility systems. Also $19 million in athletic facilities revenue refunding bonds at the University of Iowa will be sold. The Board’s municipal advisor, Springsted, Inc., projects the refunding will result in a present value savings of approximately $1.41 million.
- TIER Study -- the Board will receive a demonstration on the web application portal.
- Safeguarding Institutional Data -- Chief Information Officers from the universities will discuss information technology security issues including vulnerability, threats, and countermeasures.

The Board will receive two presentations.

- Graduate College Initiatives – Dave Holger, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate College at ISU, and Zachary Zenko, doctoral student in kinesiology and health, will provide the Board information on current programmatic and efficiency initiatives in the Graduate College.
Center for Biorenewable Chemicals – Dr. Brent Shanks, Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Director of the Center for Biorenewable Chemicals, will discuss the key industry and university partnerships involved with the center, the type of research being conducted and the importance of biobased chemicals to Iowa’s economy.

On the second day of the meeting, the Board will conduct annual evaluations of President Ruud and President Leath and the Executive Director. All individuals have requested, in accordance with the Iowa Code, their evaluations take place in closed session. The executives will report on the accomplishments of their performance goals established for FY 2015 and discuss their FY 2016 goals with the Board. The evaluation of Superintendent Gettel will occur at the close of the public meeting on Thursday so that he can attend the graduation at the School for the Deaf on Friday.

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