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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 September 9, 2015. The meeting will be held at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

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 9 a.m. The committee will consider the five-year state-funded capital plan (P&F Item 2). The FY 2017–FY 2021 five-year period totals $436.0 million in state appropriations or academic building revenue bond authorization, with $71.0 million in private/other funds. This includes no state appropriations for FY 2017 in light of recent appropriations for Regent projects. Future year requests include funding for fire and environmental safety, correction of deferred maintenance, campus security, regulatory compliance, Iowa Public Radio, energy conservation and the highest priorities for the universities and the Iowa School for the Deaf including a number of major renovation projects to update and improve the learning and research infrastructure of the universities.

The committee will also review the register of capital improvements for the University of Iowa (P&F Item 3). The first project to consider is permission to proceed with project planning for building modifications of the College of Nursing building. Approximately 10,000 gross square feet of building courtyard space would be enclosed. The estimated project cost of $22.5 million would be funded by College of Nursing gifts and earnings, treasurer’s temporary investment income and building renewal funds.

The second project is request for approval of a revised project description and budget for the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital. The new budget of $360.2 million incorporates a number of changes from the originally approved design, including changes to the siting and layout of the building and adjacent parking facility. Project changes reflect the latest and most innovative thinking in design of children’s hospitals and address factors related to safety, building infrastructure and clinical programs. In addition, labor market conditions have changed dramatically as construction of the Children’s Hospital has proceeded.
Iowa State University requests Board approval to create the non-profit ISU Global Corporation (P&F 4), with its primary purpose of supporting the University’s international programs. It would serve as a legal entity to manage the University’s major international programs when a significant presence warrants having a local entity to manage overseas programs, facilities and assets.

The Education and Student Affairs Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland will also meet at 9 a.m. The committee will consider changes to academic programs at the University of Iowa, and also receive a presentation showcasing University of Northern Iowa student success. The committee will receive a report from the recently-created Campus Safety and Security Sub-Committee.

It is anticipated the Board will convene at 10:15 a.m. The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent McKibben will hold its meeting at this time. Auditor of State Mosiman will present the FY 2015 state audit plan and review FY 2014 reports of recommendations arising from audits at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa.

Board of Regents Chief Audit Executive Stewart will review numerous internal audits, provide updates on the progress of the FY 2015 internal audits, and discuss the FY 2016 internal audit plan.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Vermeer Andringa will meet following the Audit Committee. The committee will receive the operating and financial performance report, as well as hear a faculty presentation on UI health care advances in surgery quality and safety.

Other Board agenda items include the following:

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

- Consideration of a tuition increase of 3 percent for undergraduate resident students for the Spring 2016 semester. This increase would add $100 to a full-time undergraduate resident student and be prorated on credit hour for part-time undergraduate residents. These additional revenues, expected to generate $3.5 million, would be committed to sustaining a quality teaching and learning environment. Additional details can be found in Agenda Item 5.

- The Board will consider the FY 2017 requests for operating appropriations totaling $656.8 million; $20.8 million for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; and the transfer of $1.2 million for the operation of the State Geological Survey from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to the University of Iowa. This request includes an $8.19 million increase to base funding for Iowa State University, a $7.65 million increase to base funding for the University of Northern Iowa, and no increase to base funding for the University of Iowa. Additional information can be found in Agenda Item 6.

- Bond Sales – The Board will sell $30 million in dormitory revenue bonds. The proceeds of the sale will be used to fund both the Buchanan Residence Hall project and the Finley Dining Renovation at Iowa State University.
Receive a presentation on a faculty research collaboration project called FORTEPAN Iowa. This is a public digital photo archive of Iowa’s history that is an example of interdisciplinary work among faculty members crossing three academic departments and two colleges. The work incorporates University of Northern Iowa students to participate and add to this work.

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

h/communication/IGOV letters/Letters to the Governor 2015/September 2015 letter