June 3, 2010

The Honorable Chester J. Culver, Governor
State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA  50319

Dear Governor Culver:

This letter provides information about the meeting of the Board of Regents on June 9 at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. 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.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Downer will review operating and financial performance to date. The committee will receive an informational presentation from the Department of Radiation Oncology. The committee will review concept drawings for the Iowa River Landing project. In accordance with Board policy, representatives of the UIHC will present the annual update on the strategic plan.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Evans will receive the Investment and Cash Management Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2010.

Other agenda items include:

**FY 2011 Budgets.** The Board will consider approval of the FY 2011 budgets for the universities, special schools, Board Office, and Iowa Public Radio. The proposed FY 2011 Regent Enterprise consolidated budget exceeds $4.0 billion. General university operating appropriations totaling $474.5 million are $8.5 million less than final FY 2010 state funding levels and $103.0 million less than final FY 2009 amounts. State appropriations provide 39.7% of the total general university operating revenues. Tuition comprises 54.4% of the FY 2011 budgeted revenues. Board policy mandates that a minimum of 15% of gross tuition proceeds be set-aside for student financial aid. The budgeted FY 2011 financial aid set-aside comprises 22% of the projected gross tuition revenues. More detail on the budgets may be found in Agenda Item #6.
FY 2011 Salary Policies. The Board will consider salary policies for the five institutions and the Board Office for the upcoming fiscal year. The University of Iowa anticipates average salary increases for nonorganized faculty and staff of 2%. Increases for nonorganized faculty and staff at the University of Northern Iowa will average 3% -- the increase amount negotiated with the UNI-United Faculty. The salary at Iowa State University includes increase for equity, retention and merit addressed on a departmental level with no university-wide across-the-board increase. The Board Office staff (excluding the Executive Director) will receive increases based on merit averaging 2%. Faculty increases at the special schools will average 2.3% at ISD and 4.1% at IBSSS. Increases for Professional and scientific staff at the special schools will average between 2.25% and 2.5%. Negotiated increases for SEIU (tertiary health care staff at the University of Iowa) will average 2.83%. Average increases for AFSCME covered staff including the 2% increase on July 1 and the 1% increase on January 1 and 4.5% steps increases for eligible staff will average 4.5% at SUI; 4.4% at ISU; 4.7% at UNI; 4.2% at ISD; and 3.2% at IBSSS. More detail on the salary policies and the attendant matrices may be found in Agenda Item #7.

FY 2011 Capital Plans. The Board will receive the FY 2011 Capital Plans from the institutions as required by Board policy. The plans include an overview of FY 2011 anticipated new capital improvement projects with budgets estimated to exceed $250,000. The five institutions, including the UIHC, anticipate $782.5 million in capital projects in the upcoming fiscal year. The plans also include status reports on projects with budget exceeding $1 million for which a project description and budget have been previously approved. More specifics on the capital plans may be found in Agenda Item #8.

Honorary Degree. The Board will consider approval of the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Harold A. Scheraga at the 2011 commencement at Iowa State University. The university wishes to recognize Dr. Scheraga for his outstanding experimental and theoretical studies of interactions, conformational changes, and reactivity of proteins and nucleic acids.

Legislative Interim Study Committee. The Board will consider appointments to the interim study committee on alternative project delivery at the Regent institutions. This study committee is required by provisions in SF 2389 passed in the 2010 General Assembly.

Interagency Cooperation Plan. The state reorganization bill (SF 2088) directs the Board of Regents and the institutions under its control to coordinate inter-agency cooperation with state agencies in the areas of purchasing and information technology. Interagency meetings have been held and a set of guiding principles developed. Several areas for exploration of joint contracting have been identified for purchases as well as cooperative efforts in the information technology area. More specifics on the plan may be found in Agenda Item #4u.

University of Iowa Flood Recovery: The Board will consider authorizing the University of Iowa to negotiate for the purchase of approximately 4½ floors in a mixed use condominium project to be built by a developer in downtown Iowa City for replacement of the flood damaged Voxman Music Building. The project will also replace the Clapp Recital with construction of a new facility near the Music Building. Agenda Item #13 provides more specifics about the projects as well as a map showing the locations. It also contains updates on other flood recovery projects.

University of Iowa Capital Register: The Board will consider several capital projects for the University of Iowa as outlined in Agenda Item #14. These include a project to renovate the upper floors of the Iowa Memorial Union, installation of a proton beam therapy system in the Pomerantz Family Pavilion, renovation of the cardiovascular intensive care unit in the Colloton Pavilion and expansion of parking areas. The Board will also receive a report concerning the need for additional student housing.
Annual Report of Campus Sustainability. The sustainability coordinators from the universities will review with the Board the sustainability efforts undertaken in the past year. The annual reports from the universities and special schools are provided in Agenda Item #16.

Sale of Utility System Revenue Bonds: The Board will sell $25,000,000 in utility system bonds. The proceeds from the bonds will fund improvements to the utility system at the University of Iowa.

Annual Regent Student Financial Report. The Board will receive the annual financial aid report. The report indicates students at the three Regent universities received an increase of 5.4% in financial aid in 2008-09 as compared to the previous year. Of the $467.8 million in aid 57% was from federal funds, 1.2% from state funds, 31% from institutional funds and 10% from private grants and scholarships. More specifics on the report may be found in Agenda Item #17.

University Strategic Plan Updates. In compliance with Board policy, the presidents of the universities will provide updates to their strategic plans. Agenda Item #18 provides a summary of the plans as well as providing a status report on the progress toward meeting the eight common academic indicators established by each university.

The Board will receive a presentation from Sara Larkin, math consultant for the Iowa Statewide Vision Services. She will highlight efforts to increase opportunities, awareness, and access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) course curricula for students with visual impairments.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

David W. Miles

cc: Lt. Governor Patty Judge
Molly Kottmeyer, Policy Liaison, Governor’s Office
Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa