March 4, 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 meeting of the Board of Regents on March 12, 2014. The meeting will be held at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

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.

As is customary, the Board will meet for breakfast with the student leaders from the three universities first thing in the morning.

The Property and Facilities Committee will meet beginning at 9:00 a.m. The committee, chaired by Regent Dakovich, will consider the University of Iowa capital register. Projects on the register include the initial approval for the renovation of the Galagan Auditoria in the Dental Science Building. The project would replace the seating, address ADA accessibility issues, and replace audio/visual systems, lighting and HVAC equipment. The estimated project cost is $3 million funded by College of Dentistry gifts and earnings. The second major project on the register is the initial approval of the relocation of faculty and staff offices and conference and teaching facilities for the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. The relocation of these offices and conference/teaching space is required to accommodate the expansion of the Pediatrics Specialties Clinic. The estimated project cost of $4.8 million will be funded by hospital building usage funds. The committee will consider the schematic design and budget ($5.4 million) for clinical service expansion of the Iowa River Landing (IRL). The project will develop additional outpatient clinical facilities on levels 4 and 5 of the IRL. More detail on these projects may be in P&F Agenda Item #2.

The committee will consider two requests by the University of Iowa to name two athletic-related facilities. First, the university requests approval of naming the new combined football facility as the Stew and LeNore Hansen Football Performance Center. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are loyal university of Iowa contributors. In addition to their extraordinary gift of $8 million to the football campaign, they provided a very generous gift to the recently completed Carver-Hawkeye Arena Enhancement
The second naming request is to name the new football operations building as the Richard O. Jacobson Football Operations Building. The naming is in recognition of Dick Jacobson’s longtime support of university athletics and more specifically for his generous support of $5 million for the construction of the new football operations facility.

The university will update the committee on the replacement of the Museum of Art. The building sustained considerable damage in the flood of 2008. FEMA has rejected appeals for replacement of the building. The Board granted the university permission to proceed with project planning for a replacement facility independent of federal funding in June of last year. The university issued a Request for Information and Qualification for public/private partnership for a joint use facility. The Request for Information resulted in feedback from both local land owners/developers and nationally-based developers familiar with financing and constructing unique projects like museums of art. The university will release a Request for Qualifications to invite developers and private owners of land near the core of the university’s academic campus to create teams and proposed site layout options for consideration by the university.

The Education and Student Affairs Committee (ESAC) chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland will meet following the Property Committee. The committee will review the annual report of student retention and graduation rates (ESAC #3). The report indicates one-year retention rates at Iowa Regent universities have consistently exceeded national averages. The one-year retention rate for the entering classes of 2012 at the Regent universities was 86% as compared to the national average of 77.7% for all public four-year colleges. The report also indicates an average of 67.2% of the past ten entering classes at the Regent universities graduated within six years. The report, in compliance with HF 2679 from the 2008 General Assembly, also provides information of the enrollment and degree completion of women and minorities in STEM programs. Undergraduate enrollment of both women and minorities in STEM programs increased from 2012 to 2013.

The committee will receive a presentation on accelerated graduate and professional programs at the University of Iowa. The accelerated programs provide an opportunity for highly qualified undergraduates to begin work on selected advanced degrees while earning their undergraduate degrees.

The committee will also consider a number of program-related items and the awarding of an honorary degree. Iowa State University requests approval of the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Stephen J. Rapp at the spring 2013 commencement. Mr. Rapp is a native of Cedar Falls and a former state legislator. ESAC #10 provides more information about Mr. Rapp.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent Downer will meet at 11:45 a.m. The committee will review the investment and cash management report for the quarter ended December 31, 2013.

The Board’s remaining agenda items are summarized below.

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

Two annual reports will be considered – the Annual Report on Span of Control (Agenda Item #2c) and the Annual Report on Campus Safety and Security (Agenda Item #2e). The span of control report is required by Iowa Code §262.9C and Board policy. The safety and security report required by Board policy provides updates on activities on the campuses as well as crime statistics for calendar year 2013.
• Bids will be accepted for the sale of $19.9 million in parking system revenue bonds. This bond issue is the second of two series of bonds to be sold for the UIHC Ramp II replacement project. More information on the parking project may be found in Agenda Item 5.

• The Board will receive the Residence System Governance Report, and consider the FY 2015 residence system budgets and the academic year 2014-2015 proposed rates for room and board at the universities. Final approval of the rates will be at the April meeting. The residence systems are self-supporting operations and do not receive state appropriations for operations or capital improvements. The universities provide numerous room and board options to students. Rate increases for a double room with primary meal plans are 3.46% for SUI, 1.4% for ISU and 2.89% for UNI. Agenda Item #8 contains details on the residence systems five-year plans, budget summaries, and detailed rate proposals.

• The Board will receive an economic development presentation on “Creating Economic Advantage.” Dr. Dan Reed, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Iowa, will highlight updates to the university’s economic development strategy and its partnerships with Iowa companies.

• The Board will receive an update on the search for the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. Patrick Clancy notified the Board in December that he would be retiring as of June 30, 2014. Former Regent Rose Vasquez serves as chair of the search. The committee held its initial meeting with the search firm, Ray and Associates, Inc., from Cedar Rapids. The committee has developed a timeline for the search. Advertisements have been in numerous publications and March 24 was established as the deadline for receipt of applications. The committee will meet on April 2 to review the applications and select individuals for interview by the committee. It is anticipated the Board will conduct interviews of the finalists during the April 23-24 meeting.

• The Board will receive a presentation by faculty and students from the University of Iowa College of Engineering who will describe the Engineering Grand Challenges Scholars Program.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee will meet at 4 p.m. The committee, chaired by Regent Carroll, will receive updates on the operational and financial performance of the hospitals. The committee will receive a presentation by Dr. Matt Howard, Professor and Chair of the UI Department of Neurosurgery, on medical device inventions at the University of Iowa.

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