MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Report on Legislative Session

Date: March 12, 2001

Recommended Action:

Receive report on the 2001 Legislative Session and, by general consent, the recommendations of Board positions on proposed legislation.

Executive Summary:

Regent budget presentations for state appropriations requests for the top Regent capital projects were made to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee on February 15. Also on February 15, UNI presented a report to the Oversight and Communications Subcommittee on the 21st Century Learning Infrastructure program.

The legislative timetable establishes two dates for completion of most committee work (except, e.g., appropriations and ways and means bills): March 16 is the final date for House bills to be reported out of House committees and Senate bills out of Senate committees; April 6 is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees.

The Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 14. As of today, March 12, the state's revenue growth stands at approximately .54% compared to the official estimate of 3.5%. If the Revenue Estimating Conference reduces the official estimate on March 14 (which seems likely), Governor Vilsack must, by law, revise his FY 2002 budget recommendations. This could result in reductions of appropriations throughout state government. An update on FY 2002 appropriations requests will be made at the Board meeting.

The Board Office and the institutions track all bills that may have an impact on the Regent institutions. Several bills of particular interest for the Board include:

SF 267 – FY 2001 Deappropriations (Committee on Appropriations)

This bill makes specific reductions of approximately $6 million in certain FY 2001 state appropriations – these reductions do not include any Regent appropriations. The bill also has a provision for a 1% across-the-board appropriation reduction for all other appropriations (approximately $17 million), with certain exemptions that include the appropriations to the two special schools and tuition replacement. All other FY 2001 Regent appropriations would be subject to the 1% reduction, totaling approximately $6.8 million.

Both the Senate and the House passed the bill. The bill is awaiting gubernatorial action.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.

HSB 24 – Medical Advisory Councils (Department of Human Services)

This study bill makes several Code changes involving the University of Iowa. Iowa Code 263.4 is amended to direct the Board of Regents to establish and maintain a Department of Homeopathic Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Iowa College of Medicine with suitable and sufficient hours and rooms for the department. The bill also updates references to members on the Medical Assistance Advisory Council due to name changes or termination of the existence of any member organizations.

This bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the House Human Resources Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.

SSB 1108/HSB 134 – College Sexual Offense Reporting and HF 270 – Deletion of State Criminal Statistics Reporting Requirements (Committee on Judiciary).

SSB 1108 and HSB 134 require any postsecondary institution to prescribe and publicize policies relating to sexual offenses on campus. HF 270 deletes the state laws that currently require accredited postsecondary institutions in Iowa to file federal reports about criminal statistics with the state Department of Human Rights. HF 270 has been passed by the House and has been assigned to a Senate subcommittee of the Education Committee.

SSB 1108 and HSB 134 have been assigned to subcommittees in the Senate and House Judiciary Committees.

Although the proposed bill references the federal regulations, it places additional requirements for institutions of higher education in the Iowa criminal code, which conflict with federal and current state law.

The recommended Regent position is to **oppose** these bills unless appropriate modifications can be made.

SSB 1060 – Development, Acquisition or Disposal of Land by State Agencies (Governor Vilsack)

The Governor proposed a bill that requires each state agency with statutory authority to implement programs involving the development, acquisition, or disposal of land to adopt rules to establish a land use review process. The intent of this policy is to discourage urban sprawl and to keep farmland in agricultural production.

This bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Senate State Government Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.

SF 308/SSB 1178 - Accountable Government (Governor Vilsack)

These identical bills establish a new Code chapter 8E, "Accountable Government Act." The Act directs the Department of Management to develop a state plan to provide for the review of state government agency performance and operations with a system of strategic planning, performance measurement, investment, and oversight. Agencies are expected to carry out plans and achieve goals by using performance targets and performance measures.

These bills have been assigned to subcommittees of the Senate State Government Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** these bills.

SSB 1190 - Teacher Compensation Policy/Teacher Testing (Committee on Education)

This bill raises the salaries for first-year teachers, ties compensation to teacher performance, and specifies that each teacher must develop a career development plan.

The bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Senate Education committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.

HF 58 – Decentralization of the Indigent Patient Care Program (Representative Grundberg)

This bill provides that the statewide indigent patient care currently provided by the UIHC may be provided at licensed hospitals other than the UIHC. The bill also requires, as a condition of receiving the state appropriation for the program that the UIHC is to contract with Broadlawns medical center to provide treatment to indigent patients.

This bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the House Human Resources Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **oppose** this legislation.

SF 44 – Birth Injury Prevention Research and Education Program (Senator Rehberg)
SF 49 – Brachial Plexus Injury Consultation Program (Senators Rehberg, Boettger, Schuerer, and Veenstra)

These bills require the UIHC to establish the identified programs. SF 44 contains an appropriation of $300,000 for the Birth Injury Prevention Program. SF 49 contains no funding provision.

SF 44 has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. SF 49 has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Human Resources Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** these bills.

HF 199 – Requirements for Agency Contracts: Consulting And Legal Services (Representative Millage)

This bill provides requirements for an itemized statement for certain services provided to state agencies. The bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the State Government Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.

Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: Frank J. Stork

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