

President of Board of Regents, David Miles, remarks made at September 25, 2008, Board Meeting

Before acting on the motion regarding President Mason's compensation, I would like to address a few comments to the many Iowans who care deeply about our public universities and special schools.

President Sally Mason has my full trust and confidence, as well as that of the entire Board of Regents. She accepted our invitation to become the 20th president of the University of Iowa at a particularly challenging time in the University's history. Nevertheless, in her first year on the job, the University's fall enrollment reached record levels (30,561), more the \$386 million in research grants and contracts – once again a record – were awarded to the University, and thanks to the generosity of so many Iowans and others, a record \$162 million in private contributions was secured.

She has embraced Iowa and Iowans, participating in more than 200 speaking and listening meetings across the State – including visits to Sioux City, Dubuque, the Quad Cities, West Liberty and Burlington, as well as outreach events across the U.S.

She has been equally active on campus, making a half-day visit to each of the University's eleven academic colleges, meeting regularly with on-campus leadership groups, and recruited 5 outstanding individuals, including most recently our new provost, Wallace Loh, to her senior leadership group.

Demonstrating her commitment to providing education for all Iowans, whatever their financial circumstances, she created the Iowa Promise Scholarship, which offers continued financial support throughout their academic career to recipients of the one year All Iowa Opportunity Scholars program.

Perhaps more than anywhere else, her leadership during and following the unprecedented flooding of the University this summer, has been extraordinary. Under her leadership, our preparations for the flood were aggressive. And she did not simply organize those preparations, she worked on the front-lines helping to fill and place sandbags to protect our buildings. She worked effectively with Iowa City community, state and federal officials, FEMA and others to bring a remarkable level of organization and control to the very chaotic and uncertain circumstances associated with a major disaster. She, her executive team, and the entire U of I community are to be congratulated for making a high quality educational experience for all our students their first priority. The University re-opened for Summer classes within 10 days following the flood, and began the Fall semester with a full complement of courses for our students.

As we all know, this has not been a perfect year. The University failed in its handling of this sexual assault, and for that President Mason bears responsibility. The Board has been clear with her on this. Yet, we also recognize that the event itself occurred just a few weeks following our arrival on our campus. She inherited the flawed policies and

procedures in place at the time. She relied upon members of her executive team, some of whom, in retrospect, did not serve the University well in this matter.

However, as the Stolar Report makes clear, she stayed informed, she reached out to the alleged victim's mother to express her sympathy, she made phone calls to encourage that the investigation be completed expeditiously so that appropriate actions could be taken.

And now, she has moved decisively to address personnel issues in her organization, and to issue a clarion call to transform the fatally flawed process that she inherited to a model process, that puts the safety of our students first, and that our entire University community can look to with confidence.

We believe that she is the right person at the right time to lead this effort.

So, what sort of compensation adjustment is appropriate under the circumstances?

The approach taken in the resolution attempts to reflect a year of great progress and leadership on many fronts, but that was also marred by the topic of today's meeting. As President, she is responsible for both the good and the bad.

We urge the public to take from this number a message of accountability for results. It is not meant to convey dissatisfaction or a limited future for this president, but rather our high expectations for her and what we continue to view as great promise for the future of the University under her leadership..

In sum, we believe President Mason to be a good and able president. More importantly, we believe in her capacity to become a great president.

Stolar Report Remarks

I re-read the Stolar Report last evening and would like to comment on a couple of items of particular concern.

It is apparent that our current policies are fatally flawed. That we can and will address.

The more significant failings, it seems to me, can be broadly organized into two categories: First, the failure to place the needs of this student paramount: Before rote adherence to policies. Before disputes over turf. Before the understandable fears of repeating the mistakes of the past. Before petty irritations with the alleged victim herself.

Our policies must change, but even more so, we must provide leadership from the top down, and from the bottom up, so that when a student needs our help we will be there – consistently, reliably and actively to support him or her.

The second failing was one of appropriate transparency with and accountability toward the governing board of the institution. In one instance a decision was made to knowingly and intentionally withhold material evidence sought in a formal investigation into this matter by the Board of Regents. That action, which led, to the reopening of this investigation, is simply unacceptable.

Finally, I would like to comment on the challenge and opportunity before the University, particularly as it relates to the Athletic Department.

Too often the Athletic Department is painted with a broad brush. While they are very much in the spotlight, like any other department at any university, the Athletic Department is comprised of individuals working hard each day to accomplish positive results and sometimes making mistakes.

The Athletic Department's response in this event was decidedly imperfect. On the one hand, Coach Ferentz is to be commended for promptly taking the most stringent disciplinary action in his authority, suspending the two players from the team. It is also apparent that not only did the Athletic Department not seek to cover up the incident, they quickly met with the alleged victim and sought to assist.

Unfortunately the Athletic Department, like others within the University, got caught up in procedure and form over substance, which ultimately resulted in their providing less effective assistance than they might have.

My reading of the report suggests that the greatest challenge and opportunity for the Athletic Department going forward is to achieve a more positive impact in shaping the values and ideals of their student athletes. As has been noted in the report, some, not all, of our student athletes behaved abysmally toward the alleged victim. And they were maddeningly resistant to change, despite multiple meetings held by Athletic Department officials with student athletes to address the situation. "Ghosting" in student athlete

dormitory rooms – i.e., student athletes not living in their assigned rooms – was also not adequately addressed.

So I challenge President Mason to work with the Athletic Department to use this incident as an opportunity to give greater emphasis to their role in shaping the lives of their student athletes for the better.

On that score I would like to comment quickly on Betsy Altmaier, Faculty Athletic Representative to the Big 10 Conference and the NCAA. In a situation where there has been very little positive to report, Ms. Altmaier stands out for her excellent response, and her concern and support for the victim. The integrity she displayed and the level of responsibility she assumed on behalf of the victim serve as a stellar example of a proper response, and it is imperative that her fine example be reflected both in our policies and in our conduct going forward. I commend Ms. Altmaier for her actions.