October 21, 2011

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 October 26-27, 2011, at the University of Northern Iowa beginning at 3 p.m. on the 26th. 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 for the meeting may be accessed through the Board of Regents website.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Downer will review year-to-date financial performance and receive information concerning the impact of Medicare and GME costs. Dr. Stuart Weinstein will provide the Board with information concerning the treatment of children with spinal deformity. More information about the UIHC report may be found on the Board’s website.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, chaired by Regent Evans, will meet to review numerous internal audits. The committee will consider the annual review of brokerage firms and financial institutions.

Board agenda items are summarized below;
Dr. Jackson Katz will present an overview of a prevention initiative in the UNI Center for Violence Prevention that focuses on systematically incorporating the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Strategies program. MVP Strategies is a primary prevention approach that educates students, faculty and staff on how to become empowered bystanders who confront and eliminate school and community based sexual violence and bullying when they observe it.

The Board will consider the proposed tuition and mandatory fees for the 2012-2013 along with proposed academic and administrative fees. It is proposed the increase in tuition for 2012-2013 will be 3.75% for resident undergraduate students at all three universities. Increases for nonresident undergraduates are proposed as follows: SUI – 4.5%; ISU – 2.63%, and UNI – 3.75%. It is proposed to increase resident and nonresident graduate and professional tuition by the same percentages. Agenda Item #6 provides details on the tuition increases, outlines additional/supplemental tuition proposed for specific colleges or programs and mandatory fees for 2012-2013. Information is also provided on the cost of attendance at the universities and comparisons of tuition nationally and in the Board-designated peer groups.

Board policy requires that a minimum of 15% of gross tuition be set aside for student financial aid, a mix of need-based and merit-based aid. Each university has met or exceeded the minimum requirement for the last several years and will continue for 2012-2013.

Proposed 2012-2013 academic and administrative fees are detailed in Agenda Item #7.

The Board will consider the establishment of the University of Iowa Health Care Board of Advisors. This group would advise the President of the University of Iowa and the Vice President for Medical Affairs on policy issues, performance improvement and long-term planning activities. Specifics on the proposed membership of the group and its purpose are provided in Agenda Item #8.

The Board will consider various capital projects from SUI and UNI. Included among these projects is the request for permission to proceed with planning for a project to expand the Redeker Center at UNI. The project would expand the existing convenience store, dining area, the bakery area and office areas. More specifics on the UNI project may be found in Agenda Item #11.

The Board will consider the request for permission to proceed with planning for the University of Iowa Pharmacy Building replacement and improvements. The building, constructed in 1961, can no longer serve the intensive educational space needs of the College of Pharmacy. The project would construct a new facility and modernize spaces in the 1996 addition for laboratory functions. The estimated cost of $90 million would be funded by future state appropriations and university and college gifts and earnings. Representatives of the university will update the Board on the West Campus Residence Hall project. The proposed residence hall would house approximately 450 students at an estimated cost of approximately $100,000 per student. It is anticipated the schematic design will be presented to the Board at its February meeting. More details on the SUI capital projects may be found in Agenda Item #12.
The Board will review the FY 2011 Comprehensive Fiscal Report. This annual report (Agenda Item #4g) compares actual revenues and expenditures with the Board-approved budgets. The report also includes a five-year history of revenues and expenditures.

The Board will consider a request by University of Iowa to name the new addition to Carver-Hawkeye Arena the “Dale and Marilyn Howard Family Pavilion”. The naming request is in recognition of the Howard’s philanthropic gift of $5 million to support the recently completed construction of the project.

The Board will receive a final report on the Iowa State University Presidential Search from search committee member President Pro Tem Rastetter and will approve the letter detailing the appointment of Dr. Steven Leath as President of Iowa State University.

The Board will receive updates from SUI (Agenda Item #18), IBSSS (Agenda Item #9) and ISU (Agenda Item #17) on flood and storm recovery projects. In Agenda Item #9, the Board is asked to grant permission to proceed with numerous restoration projects for the IBSSS buildings and grounds. Photographs of the damage and a timeline are attached to the agenda item.

The Board will consider approval of the 2012-2016 strategic plan for the Iowa School for the Deaf. An executive summary of the plan is attached to Agenda Item #14.

In accordance with Board policy, the universities and the special schools will provide progress reports on their strategic plans. Agenda Item #19a compares the universities progress toward meeting the goals established by the Board and provides reports on the accomplishments of the universities. Agenda Item #19b provides information concerning the progress at ISD and IBSSS.

Agenda Item #16 provides information on the 2011 Economic Development and Technology Transfer Report. The universities support the economy of Iowa through their core missions. Their economic contributions to the state are fundamentally linked to their overall academic excellence. This core mission was supported by $841.8 million in funding sponsored by federal and corporate sources in FY 2011. This funding provided the basis on which the Regent universities conducted a wide variety of economic development programs. Among other accomplishments, these programs resulted in the awarding of 75 new patents, $18.6 million in royalty and fee income, $90.4 million in revenue generated by Iowa companies as a direct result of university technologies, and 2,509 Iowans employed at 121 companies at the SUI, ISU and UNI research parks and incubators. More specifics may be found in Agenda Item #15.

The Board will consider the bond issuance schedule for 2012. The proposed schedule may be found in Agenda Item #20.

The Board will conduct a bond sale providing for refunding of bonds in the amount of $21 million (estimated). These bonds were sold to finance a portion of the cost of the Center for Excellence in Image-Guided Radiation Therapy at the UIHC. The Board’s financial advisor has projected that the refunding would result in a present value savings of approximately $1.6 million.
The Board will receive the Fall 2011 enrollment report. Both SUI and ISU saw increases in enrollment from the prior year. UNI experienced a very slight decrease. SUI has 30,893 students; ISU – 29,887; and UNI – 13,168. Approximately 64% of students at the Regent universities are residents of Iowa. Agenda Item #22 provides more specifics on the fall enrollment.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Lang

cc: Lt. Governor Kimberly Reynolds
    Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa