The following are questions sent to the Board of Regents as of Friday, October 2, 2015, by prospective consultants. Questions are listed in order of receipt.

• What is the source of funding for project? Board of Regents
  o What is the not to exceed budget amount? NA

• The RFP states that the estimated timeline of the project is December 1, 2015 – March 1, 2016. Is there any flexibility with the proposed dates to complete the required tasks, particularly with the start of the project around the Winter holidays? The Board is open to extending the deadline, but would want a clear alternative schedule with justification provided by the consultant

• The work is to begin December 1, 2015 and end March 1, 2016, a relative short period of time for strategic planning in higher education, that includes a holiday break. How inclusive a process do the Regents seek? How would you describe the consultation with campus constituents the Regents seek for the plan, during the several on-site visits? The Board of Regents wants all pertinent stakeholders to have an opportunity to provide feedback. The Board expects the consultant to develop a plan to provide that opportunity.

• How does the Board of Regents regard the goals in the current strategic plan? For example, are they completed, outdated, or a base upon which to build? The Board receives an annual progress report from each of the institutions which includes progress toward meeting the target specified for each goal.

• Can bidders receive copies of the reports from the recently commissioned studies of efficiency conducted by outside consultants for the Board of Regents, to use as background for their proposal? The Phase I studies are available on the Board of Regents website at http://www.regents.iowa.gov/TIER/tier.htm. The academic study will be presented at the Board of Regents meeting on October 21, 2015.

• There are two scheduled meetings of the Board of Regents during the project period, December 2 (by Phone) and February 24-25. Will the board meet with the successful consultants at these or other times during the course of project? The successful consultant will be expected to develop a timeline which includes meeting with the board and key stakeholders.

• Is the 2010-2016 Strategic Plan linked to the RFP the full Strategic Plan or an executive summary? For example, we believe that an implementation plan is important to ease and assure execution of any strategic plan, but the linked plan does not appear to include one. The strategic plan approved by the Board includes goals, accountability measures, and targets. The implementation plan included yearly targets. The annual progress review of each of the institutions tracks completion of yearly targets.

• Is the format of the 2010-2016 Strategic Plan a prescribed format, or will other Plan formats recommended by the contractor be considered? The plan format recommended by the contractor needs to respond to the Board’s expectations.

• What is the Board of Regents’ budget for this Strategic Planning process? The budget will reflect the proposed work.
• Does the Board of Regents require/prefer that potential contractors hold specific forms of academic planning certifications, qualifications or experience? Or will they consider strategic planning groups/individuals that will incorporate non-academic experience to a plan that is based on their academic institution experience and knowledge? *The Board will evaluate the proposals on the basis of the expertise and experience of the bidders relative to developing and implementing a higher education system strategic plan.*

• While the RFP references “encompassing a series of alternative future and a common direction,” that aspect is not apparent in the linked 2010-2016 plan. Does that serve as more of a background to the former plan, or has that desired outcome been added as a more important aspect of this (2016-2021) Strategic Plan? *The proposed process for developing and implementing the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan needs to reflect changes/trends in higher education and the specific needs for the Board of Regents System.*