September 2, 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 meetings of the Board of Regents on September 9 and 10 at Iowa State University in Ames.

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.

The Property and Facilities Committee chaired by Regent Dakovich will meet at 2:30 p.m. on September 9. Among the agenda items to be considered is review of the five-year capital plan. The plan includes the FY 2016 capital request of $71 million. The top priority of the FY 2016 plan is a lump sum request for all Regent institutions. The funds would be used to correct fire and environmental safety deficiencies and deferred maintenance, provide campus safety improvements, address regulatory compliance, provide infrastructure for Iowa Public Radio and undertake energy conservation improvements. More specifics on the FY 2016 request and the five-year plan may be found in P&F Agenda Item #2.

The Property and Facilities Committee will review a request from the University of Iowa to proceed with project planning for the Madison Street Residence Hall. The project would construct a new residence hall west of the North Campus Parking Ramp on the site of the old Iowa City water plant. The new facility would include approximately 800 beds in a structure between 7-10 floors. The committee will also consider a request from the university to proceed with planning for expansion of dining services at Burge Residence Hall. More specifics on the University of Iowa capital projects may be in P&F Agenda Item #3.

The Property and Facilities Committee will review a proposed property sale. UNI requests approval to sell fifty acres of land on the western edge of the campus to the Cedar Falls School District. A new high school would be located on this site. The sale is contingent upon approval of a school district bond referendum. More detail on this sale may be found in P&F Agenda Item #7.
The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee chaired by Regent Downer will convene at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10. Auditor of State Mosiman will present the FY 2014 state audit plan and review FY 2013 reports of recommendations arising from audits of the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

Chief Audit Executive Todd Stewart will review numerous internal audits with the committee and update the committee on the progress of the FY 2014 internal audits as well as discuss the FY 2015 internal audit plan.

The Board’s investment advisor will review the investment and cash management report for the quarter ended June 30, 2014, with the committee.

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Carroll will meet following the Audit Committee. The committee will receive the operational and financial performance report. Dr. Steven Mickelsen will make a presentation on “Reimaging Procedures to Treat Atrial Fibrillation”.

The Education and Student Affairs Committee chaired by President Pro Tem Mulholland will meet following the hospital committee. The committee will receive a presentation on Iowa State University career services. The presentation will highlight the structure, operating philosophies, governance, college-focused delivery model and advantages as well as recent outcomes.

It is anticipated the Board will convene at 1 p.m. The first agenda item will be to receive an update on the Tier Study by Regent McKibben. Three business cases will be discussed – establishment of a policy for defining the size and structure of professional and scientific search committees; creating a common application portal; and standardizing “manual” calculation of the Regent Admission Index.

Other agenda items are summarized below.

- Each of the institutional heads will provide the Board with a brief update on campus activities.
- The Board will consider the membership of the teams that will participate in the collective bargaining negotiations scheduled to begin this winter with the UNI-United Faculty, the University of Iowa graduate students, and the staff in the tertiary care unit at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Representatives of the Board will also participate in the statewide AFSCME negotiations. Membership on the teams is detailed in Agenda Item #6c.
- The Board will consider the FY 2016 request for state appropriations totaling $649.0 million. The appropriations requests incorporates continuation of recurring state appropriation levels, funding for initiatives to support the FY 2010-2016 strategic plan, tuition replacement needs and support for Iowa Public Radio. Additional details of the requests may be found in Agenda Item #8.
• Dr. Michael Crum, Vice President for Economic Development and Business Engagement, will present an overview of the expansion of the research park at Iowa State University. The park currently has almost 60 tenants with an employee base in excess of 1,300 and an annual salary base greater than $70 million. In addition, there are more than 2,500 Iowans who are employed by firms which grew out of the research park and are located elsewhere in Iowa.

• Dr. Janis Terpenny will provide the Board with an overview of the Center for e-Design, a National Science Foundation Industry University Cooperative Research Center, which she co-founded in 2003 and the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute, a university, government, and industry collaborative to foster innovation in digital manufacturing and design.

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