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September 15, 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 September 20, 2011, at the Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines, beginning at 8:30 a.m. 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.

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee chaired by Regent Downer will review year-to-date financial performance and hear an update on the UIHC strategic plan. More information about the UIHC report may be found on the website.

The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, chaired by Regent Evans, will meet to review the investment and cash management report for the quarter ended June 30 and to consider the committee calendar for the coming year.

Board agenda items are summarized below.

- The Board is asked to consider the FY 2013 operating appropriation requests for Higher Education, Special Purpose Units, Special Schools, Economic Development, UIHC, and Iowa Public Radio totaling $621.2M. The requested amount includes incremental funding for strategic initiatives including STEM, Renewable Energy and Value-Added Agriculture, and the Economic Development Inter-institutional Initiative. Other details of the appropriations requests may be found in Agenda Item #4.
• The five-year capital plans including the FY 2013 capital request will be considered. The FY 2013 capital request of $86 million includes $75 million to correct fire and environmental safety deficiencies and deferred maintenance, provide campus safety improvements and address storm damage at ISD and IBSSS. Also included in the FY 2013 requests is funding for planning of the Pharmacy Building Replacement at SUI, the Biosciences Building at ISU and the renovation of the Schindler Education Center at UNI. More details on the capital request and the five-year plan may be found in Agenda Item #5.

• The Board will consider various capital projects from SUI and ISU. Included among these projects is the request for approval of the design and budget ($20.9 million) for a project to expand the ambulatory surgery center and main operating room suites at the UIHC. More specifics on the UIHC project may be found in Agenda Item #6.

The Board will consider approval of the project description and budget ($74.5 million) for the Biorenewables Complex – Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) Building at ISU. The complex consists of three wings. The Biorenewables Research Laboratory was completed in 2010. Funds in the amount of $60.4 million were appropriated during the 2011 legislative session for construction of the latter two wings – the ABE research and teaching laboratory wing and the ABE office and classroom wing. The project budget also includes $14.1 million in private giving.

The Board also is asked to consider a project for modifications of the Knoll, the residence of the ISU president. The project in the amount of $375,000 would replace carpet in the public areas, renovation of bathrooms, window treatments, interior and exterior painting and other interior and exterior refurbishments. No major work has been done on the original portion in over 30 years. The main floor is managed as university public space, and the university estimates that over 200,000 people have visited the Knoll since the carpet was last replaced which was more than 20 years ago. More details on the ISU capital projects may be found in Agenda Item #7.

• 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 an update on the Iowa State University Presidential Search from search committee member President Pro Tem Rastetter.

• The Board will receive updates from SUI, ISD, IBSSS and ISU on flood and storm recovery projects. This will be the first report to the Board by Superintendent Jeanne Prickett since the ISD campus was impacted by severe weather on August 18. Each of the school's buildings was affected by varying degrees, with the Lied Multipurpose Complex suffering extensive hail damage to its roof.

• The Board will review the results of an accreditation report received by the Iowa School for the Deaf. The school received “accreditation on advisement” from AdvancED. The Board will request the school develop a plan of action to address the required actions for improvement identified by AdvancED. More specifics on the report may be found in Agenda Item #16.
• Mary Grace Herrington, Chief Executive Officer of Iowa Public Radio will make a presentation on the IPR annual report. The report is summarized in Agenda Item #17.

• In 2006 the Board instituted the Regent Admission Index replacing admission requirements which had been in place in 1958. The RAI, as explained in Agenda Item #18, is an equation taking into account the student’s ACT score, high school class rank, high school grade point average and the number of high courses completed in the core subject areas. The RAI was effective with the entering class of 2009. The evaluation conducted during 2010-2011 was to determine if high school graduates were inappropriately affected by the new admission requirements and to collect feedback from high school counselors.

• The Board will consider approval of the FY 2012 Grow Iowa Values Funds proposed awards for the three universities. The 2005 Iowa General Assembly appropriated $5 million annually through FY 2015 to the Board for GIVF projects. For FY 2012, the appropriation was reduced to $1.5 million. Agenda Item #3g outlines the projects to be undertaken by the universities with these funds. The projects account for $1.44 million of the $1.5 million appropriation. The remaining funds are reserved for the Board to allocate to research and commercialization projects submitted by private colleges and universities.

• The Board will conduct two separate bond sales. One bond issue ($26.8 million) will be the second and final issuance of bonds for the construction of the Iowa River Landing Ambulatory Care Clinic located in Coralville. The remaining bond sale provides for refunding of bonds in the amount of $5,685,000 (estimated) for the Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility project. It is projected the refunding would result in a present value savings of approximately $500,000.

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