

Contact: Brock Ascher

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15-16, 2023 BOARD MEETING

SLIFE BALLROOM, COMMONS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

Board Members	November 15, 2023	November 16, 2023
Michael Richards, President	Present	Present
Sherry Bates, President Pro Tem	Present	Present
David Barker	Present	Present
Robert Cramer	Present	Present
Abby Crow	Present	Present
Nancy Dunkel	Present	Present
Jim Lindenmayer	Present	Present
JC Risewick	Absent	Present
Greta Rouse	Present	Present

Board Office

Brock Ascher, Mark Braun, Kristin Bauer, Brad Berg, Rachel Boon, Jillian Carlson, Aimee Claeys, Stephanie Griffin, Carolann Jensen, Debra Johnston, Josh Lehman, John Nash, Jason Pontius.

SUI

Barbara Wilson
Rod Lehnertz
Kevin Kregel
Denise Jamieson
Kim Hunter
Mark Henrichs

ISU

Wendy Wintersteen
Shawn Norman
Jonathan Wickert

UNI

Mark Nook
Michael Hager
José Herrera

The corresponding memorandum for each agenda item, an integral component of the minutes, is available on the Board of Regents website: <http://www.iowaregents.edu>. Copies of these memoranda can also be obtained from the Board Office by calling 515-281-3934. Video of the meeting is also available on the website.

November 15, 2023

The Property and Facilities Committee met at 10:25 a.m.
The Governance, Evaluation and Human Resources Committee met at 11:05 a.m.
The Free Speech and Student Affairs Committee met at 11:10 a.m.
The Academic Affairs Committee met at 1 p.m.
The Investment and Finance Committee met at 1:49 p.m.

Call to Order for November 15, 2023

President Richards called the meeting to order at 2:49 p.m..

Roll Call:

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Absent								x	

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee met at 2:50 p.m.
The Audit and Compliance Committee met at 4 p.m.

Faculty Presentation: UNI Public Art Incubator

President Richards recognized UNI Provost José Herrera, who introduced Elizabeth Sutton, professor of art history and head of the UNI Department of Art; Dan Perry, coordinator of the UNI Public Art Incubator; and Amelia Gotera, UNI student. Sutton, Perry and Gotera presented on UNI’s Public Art Incubator, which provides technical resources that assist in the development of public art projects.

Institutional Strategic Plan Updates

President Richards recognized Board of Regents Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon, who introduced UI SVP and Provost Kevin Kregel, UNI Assistant to the President Kristin Moser, UNI Chief of Staff Oksana Grybovych and ISU Senior Advisor to the President Sophia Magill to present institutional strategic plan updates.

Public Comment

President Richards noted that public comment on issues that come before the Board is an important part of the Board’s deliberations. Three scheduled presenters spoke to the Board:

- Randal Meyer, UNI Alum, spoke on UNI’s West Gym and proposed wrestling practice facility plans
- Michael Flatte, UI faculty member, spoke on proposed plans to remodel university computer science facilities
- Nicole Trip, UNI student, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations
- Keenan Crow, UNI alum, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations
- Archer Trip, UNI student, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations
- Sam Zimmerman, UNI student, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations
- Angela Davidson, UNI student, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations
- Olivia Garcia, Iowa State student, spoke on the DEI Study Group’s recommendations

Adjourn

President Richards adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

November 16, 2023

Call to Order for November 16, 2023

President Richards called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m..

Roll Call:

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent									

Consent Agenda

- ✓ MOVED by DUNKEL, SECONDED by RISEWICK, to approve and receive the following CONSENT AGENDA items:
 - a) Minutes of September 27-28, 2023 Meeting
 - b) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Property and Facilities Committee
 - c) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Free Speech and Student Affairs Committee
 - d) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Governance, Evaluation, and Human Resources Committee
 - e) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Investment and Finance Committee
 - f) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Academic Affairs Committee
 - g) Meeting of November 15, 2023 Audit and Compliance Committee
 - h) Meeting of November 15, 2023 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee
 - i) Interagency Cooperative Purchasing Plan Annual Report
 - j) Request for Professional Development Assignments, FY 2025
 - k) University Museums Accreditation Resolution, ISU

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay									

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Reports from Institutional Heads

Presidents Wilson, Wintersteen and Nook delivered updates on their respective institutions.

Fall Enrollment Report

President Richards recognized Board of Regents Associate Chief Academic Officer Jason Pontius, who presented the Fall 2023 Enrollment Report. Pontius noted that enrollment increased by 302 students from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023.

Economic Development and Technology Transfer Report

President Richards recognized Board of Regents Senior Communications Director Josh Lehman, who introduced UI Director of Corporate Engagement Jeff Kueter, Senior Director of UI Ventures Jordan Kaufmann, ISU VP for Economic Development and Industry Relations David Spading, and UNI Executive Director of Business and Community Services Randy Pilkington to present institutional economic development reports.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Study Group Report and Recommendations

President Richards recognized Regents Barker, Lindenmayer and Rouse, who presented their recommendations as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Study Group.

Regent Dunkel thanked those who worked on the report for their work. Dunkel noted some definitions of DEI apply to her, personally, and that she may not have been able to participate as a Board member had it not been for DEI policies. She disagreed with some of the points described in the group's recommendations. Regent Dunkel asked the study group if there were specific numbers in the DEI survey that would spur change; what numbers influenced them to make their recommendations; and if any of the recommendations are tied to specific questions on the survey. Lastly, Dunkel noted that, in her opinion, recommendation 8 seems to expand DEI practices, but only for selected groups.

Regent Lindenmayer disagreed with the idea that the recommendations would inhibit DEI intentions. Lindenmayer noted that the recommendations were "sufficiently vague" in order to give the institutions the flexibility to serve their students and address their legislators.

Regent Barker noted that the DEI survey was not intended to be a scientific survey, but rather a collection of different perspectives. With regard to Regent Dunkel's question on recommendation 8, Barker said the recommendation does not create new DEI structures, but rather asks the universities to think about their hiring practices with regard to diversity in philosophical perspective.

Regent Bates asked Regent Lindenmayer if it was fair to say that the recommendations allow the universities to work within their own frameworks. Regent Lindenmayer agreed with Regent Bates's assertion.

Regent Cramer asked the study group if removing DEI programs makes the institutions less welcoming places. Regent Barker noted that any bureaucracy that grows over the years needs to be analyzed by governing boards. Regent Rouse stated that the recommendations have no impact on student-run groups.

Regent Crow asked if there were examples of DEI services that were not provided to all students. Regent Barker noted that there are several programs that are open to all students by policy, but are perceived to be available only to certain groups of students.

Regent Crow asked how having a DEI hiring statement would negatively impact a student or applicant. Regent Barker noted that the recommendations make it clear that the universities would not have DEI tests for admission. Regent Crow replied that as an applicant to the UI Nursing program, she would work with patients from a range of backgrounds and experiences and that understanding proper and equitable healthcare practices is imperative, as is allowing the universities to evaluate their applicants based on this understanding. She asked how the universities could maintain their recruitment strength without this component. Regent Barker answered that the DEI Study Group recommendations do not affect curriculum. Regent Lindenmayer noted that the recommendations do not bar DEI statements.

Regent Bates asked if recommendation 8 was redundant and requested more information. Regent Crow noted that she thought recommendation 8 stood in opposition to the rest of the recommendations. Regent Barker said he believes that the universities have experienced a

decrease in diversity of philosophical perspective over time and that he believes that kind of diversity is beneficial and has been neglected. Regent Crow stated that cutting other aspects of diversity while promoting diversity of philosophical perspective seems counterintuitive. Regent Barker noted that the universities have done an excellent job at promoting diversity but have fallen short on diversity of ideological perspective. Regent Crow stated that she doesn't believe the Board can pick and choose which areas of diversity to promote and which areas to cut.

Regent Cramer asked how the recommendations would be implemented by the universities. Regent Barker noted that the study group hasn't established any formal guidelines, but that the group would work with the universities. Executive Director Braun stated that the Board Office staff would work with the universities, as well. President Richards noted that the study group would be dissolved following the report.

- ✓ MOVED by BATES, SECONDED by CRAMER, to receive the report of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Study group and adopt recommendations 3-7 and 10.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Nay						x			

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

- ✓ MOVED by DUNKEL, SECONDED by BATES, to reconsider the previous vote.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay									

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Crow requested recommendations 1,2,8, and 9 be removed for further discussion.

- ✓ MOVED by RICHARDS, to adopt recommendations 3-7 and 10.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Nay					x				

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Barker submitted and withdrew a motion to consider the four remaining recommendations together. The Board agreed to discuss and consider the remaining recommendations individually.

Regent Crow stated her concerns about the efficiencies the recommendations looked to achieve, noting the universities were already efficient with regard to DEI services compared to their peer institutions. Regent Barker remarked that several institutions with much larger research budgets than Iowa's public universities spend comparatively less on DEI, so efficiencies can still be found while still maintaining accreditation.

Regent Dunkel stated that pairing back DEI initiatives to the bare minimum wasn't good enough and in her opinion the Board could do better.

President Richards stated that since the Board would turn the recommendations back to the universities for implementation, the adopted recommendations did not have to mean drastic cuts. Regent Lindenmayer agreed and expressed faith in the institutions.

Regent Crow stated that she has heard from numerous students in opposition to the recommendations and as the student regent cannot support the recommendation.

✓ MOVED by BARKER, SECONDED by CRAMER to adopt recommendation 1.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x			x	x	x	x
Nay				x	x				

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Crow stated that she had faith in the institutions' ability to evaluate what services to offer students and that she values the importance of internalized structures that support students. As such, she cannot support the recommendation.

✓ MOVED by BARKER, SECONDED by ROUSE to adopt recommendation 2.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x			x	x	x	x
Nay				x	x				

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

X MOVED by CROW, SECONDED by DUNKEL to amend recommendation 8 to read: Annually the Board Office will issue a reminder of the commitment for the recruitment of candidates with the diversity of intellectual and philosophical perspective in faculty and staff applicant pools.

Regent Cramer noted that the original language of the recommendation asked the universities to explore strategies for recruitment. He stated he would vote no on the amendment and support the original language.

Regent Barker stated the original language compels the universities to explore possible methods for increasing philosophical diversity and that he would vote against the amendment.

Regent Crow explained that her amendment removes the contradiction between recommendation 8 and recommendations 1 and 2 and highlights the Board's commitment to ensuring equal support to all across campus without valuing certain perspectives or identities more than others.

Regent Dunkel stated that the original recommendation 8 is not measurable, and that she supports the amendment, in part, because it is measurable.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye				x	x	x			x
Nay	x	x	x				x	x	

MOTION FAILED.

- ✓ MOVED by BARKER, SECONDED by CRAMER to adopt recommendation 8.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x				x	x	x
Nay				x	x	x			

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Crow asked for clarification on why the study group put forth recommendation 9. Regent Barker replied that a number of universities around the country that have established institutes for civic education and free speech that have been successful. The study group thought that something similar could be successful in Iowa and promote dialog between people with different ideas.

- ✓ MOVED by LINDENMAYER, SECONDED by CROW to amend recommendation 9 to strike the word “develop” and replace it with “explore,” so the recommendations reads: Explore a proposal, including cost, to establish a widespread initiative that includes opportunities for education and research on free speech and civic education.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye		x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Nay	x				x				

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

- ✓ MOVED by RICHARDS to adopt recommendation 9, as amended.

	Barker	Bates	Cramer	Crow	Dunkel	Lindenmayer	Richards	Risewick	Rouse
Aye	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Nay					x				

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Adjourn

President Richards adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.