

Contact: Brock Ascher

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11-13, 2025 BOARD MEETING

ALUMNI CENTER
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
AMES, IOWA

Board Members	November 11	November 12	November 13
Sherry Bates, President	Present	Present	Present
Greta Rouse, President Pro Tem	Present	Present	Present
Robert Cramer	Present	Present	Present
Nancy Dunkel	Present	Present	Present
Lucy Gipple	Present	Present	Present
Christine Hensley	Present	Present	Present
JC Risewick	Present	Present	Absent
Kurt Tjaden	Present	Present	Present

Board Office

Brock Ascher, Mark Braun, Brad Berg, Rachel Boon, Jillian Carlson, Aimee Claeys, Stephanie Griffin, Carolann Jensen, Josh Lehman, John Nash, Jason Pontius, Keith Saunders, Chad Sharp, Brynn Stroup.

SUI

Barbara Wilson
Rod Lehnertz
Kevin Kregel
Denise Jamieson
Bradley Haws
Mark Henrichs

ISU

Wendy Wintersteen
Sean Reeder
Jason Keith

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.

Call to Order for November 11, 2025

President Bates called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Roll Call:

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent								

Closed Session

- ✓ MOVED by DUNKEL, SECONDED by TJADEN, to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.1.i, to evaluate the professional competency of individuals whose appointment or hiring is being considered as necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation. Each individual has requested that his or her professional competency be evaluated in closed session.

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

The Board convened in closed session at 9:01 a.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 3:55 p.m.

- ✓ MOVED by CRAMER, SECONDED by ROUSE to employ Dr. David Cook as president of Iowa State University for an initial term commencing March 1, 2026 for a term of five years at an annual salary of \$700,000; authorize a five-year deferred compensation plan commencing on March 1, 2026 with annual contributions of \$100,000; and authorize a monthly housing allowance of \$8,000 and a vehicle allowance of \$1,500.

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Adjourn

President Bates adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

November 12, 2025

The Property and Facilities Committee met at 9 a.m.

The Governance, Evaluation and Human Resources Committee met at 9:27 a.m.

The Free Speech and Student Affairs Committee met at 9:45 a.m.

The Academic Affairs Committee met at 11 a.m.

The Investment and Finance Committee met at 12:03 p.m.

The Audit and Compliance Committee met at 1:23 p.m.

The UI Health Care Committee met at 1:30 p.m.

Facility Analysis of Presidential Residences

President Bates recognized ISU Senior Vice President for Operations and Finance Sean Reeder, UI Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Rod Lehnertz and UNI Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Michael Hager to deliver reports on their respective presidential residences.

Economic Development and Technology Transfer Report

President Bates recognized Josh Lehman, Board of Regents Senior Communications Director, to present the Economic Development and Technology Transfer Report. Lehman introduced UI Chief Innovation Officer Jon Darsee, ISU VP for Economic Development and Industry Relations David Spalding, and UNI Director of Business and Community Services Drew Conrad.

Tuition Guarantee Impact Study

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Chief Business Officer Brad Berg who presented the Tuition Guarantee Impact Study. Berg noted that historically tuition levels and state support are inversely correlated, with state support falling during economic downturns which subsequently increase tuition rates. He commented that several institutions of varying sizes and types have found that tuition guarantee programs are often unsustainable and terminated when experiencing downturns in the economy.

Annual Fall Enrollment Report

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Associate Chief Academic Officer Jason Pontius, who presented highlights of the Fall 2025 Enrollment Report. Pontius noted that starting in 2026 the number of high school graduates in Iowa is expected to decline. Total Fall 2025 enrollment increased 2% from 2024 with 71,872 students. Pontius stated that Fall 2022 enrollment of 68,938 students is what he expects from the bottom of the so-called "Enrollment Cliff."

Faculty Presentation

President Bates recognized Dr. Karl Mueller, ISU Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Ames National Laboratory, who presented Ames Laboratory: Science and Technology for the Future.

Public Comment

President Bates noted that public comment on issues that come before the Board is an important part of the Board's deliberations. One scheduled presenter spoke to the Board:

- Annemarie Butler, ISU Associate Professor of Philosophy

Adjourn

President Bates adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Call to Order for November 13, 2025

President Bates called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll Call:

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Present	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Absent						x		

President Bates read a statement on the passing of former Regent Larry McKibben

Consent Agenda

Regent Hensley requested part of Item C: Meeting of Governance, Evaluation and Human Resources Committee, specifically the Center for Intellectual Freedom Bylaws, be removed for a separate vote.

- ✓ MOVED by ROUSE, SECONDED by GIPPLE to approve the remaining CONSENT AGENDA items:
 - a) Minutes of September 17-18, 2025 Meeting
 - b) Meeting of November 12, 2025 Property and Facilities Committee
 - c) Meeting of November 12, 2025 Governance, Evaluation, and Human Resources Committee
 - d) Meeting of November 12, 2025 Academic Affairs Committee
 - e) Meeting of November 12, 2025 Investment and Finance Committee
 - f) Meeting of November 12, 2025 Free Speech & Student Affairs Committee
 - g) Interagency Cooperative Purchasing Plan Annual Report
 - h) Request for Professional Development Assignments, FY 2027
 - i) ISU Honorary Degree Request: AI Christian

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Absent						x		

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Cramer stated that it would be good to allow the Center for Intellectual Freedom Advisory Council to meet and bring bylaws to the Board of Regents for approval.

Regent Hensley agreed and stated that she would make a motion to TABLE the item.

- ✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by CRAMER to TABLE the Center for Intellectual Freedom Bylaws until a future meeting.

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Nay						x		

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Reports from University Presidents

Presidents Wendy Wintersteen, Mark Nook, and Barbara Wilson, presented updates on their respective campuses. President Bates presented Wintersteen with a plaque and read a resolution in her honor:

WHEREAS, Dr. Wendy Wintersteen was selected by the Iowa Board of Regents to be the 16th President of Iowa State University effective November 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, she is completing a nearly 50-year professional career at her alma mater, including having served as an extension associate, a professor of entomology and in numerous administrative roles, including Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station, before being named ISU's first female president; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Iowa State has earned widespread recognition in areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and research in higher education, having received more than \$4.2 billion in external funding, and ISU earning the 2023 Entrepreneurial University of the Year for the Americas award; and

WHEREAS, while she was president, Iowa State recorded significant increases in student outcomes, with its first-year student retention rate as well as its six-year graduation rate significantly outperforming the national averages for public universities; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, Iowa State raised a record-breaking \$1.542 billion for the Forever True, For Iowa State campaign, with \$500 million dedicated for student support, including more than 50,000 donor-funded scholarships; and

WHEREAS, numerous major capital improvement projects on the University's campus were started or completed during her tenure, including the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Therkildsen Industrial Engineering Building, the Student Innovation Center, the Gerdin Building Expansion for the Ivy College of Business, the LeBaron Complex Project, the ISU Kent Feed Mill and Grain Science Complex, the Robert T. Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farm, the Stanley L. Balloun Turkey Teaching and Research Facility, ISU Research Park expansion, and CyTown;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Board of Regents, expresses its deep gratitude to President Wintersteen for her expertise, dedication and extraordinary service to the Board of Regents, Iowa State University, its students and families, and all Iowans.

Board President Report

President Bates read a statement in honor of David Barker, who resigned from the Board October 20 to accept the position of Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education for the US Department of Education.

WHEREAS, Dr. David Barker was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Kim Reynolds for a term beginning May 1, 2019, and was reappointed to the Board for another six-year term on March 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, he has been confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary of Postsecondary Education for the United States Department of Education, and will be leaving the Board to assume that vital role for the federal government; and

WHEREAS, he served on numerous Board of Regents committees, task forces and working groups, including in leadership roles, and was always willing to take on additional responsibilities when asked, offering his thoughtful perspective to address whatever issue was at hand; and

WHEREAS, over his long and distinguished career, he has served as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as well as being an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa, teaching real estate investment, urban economics and corporate finance, and has had numerous research articles published in academic journals; and

WHEREAS, his knowledge, passion and dedication toward topics related to higher education was a huge asset, as he was always willing to ask important, probing questions on issues facing the Regent Enterprise. He was always searching out the best solution on any matter, and he was not afraid to challenge the operational status quo in higher education governance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Board of Regents expresses its deep gratitude to Regent Barker for his expertise and dedication, and publicly acknowledges him for his extraordinary service and contributions to the Board of Regents, its institutions, students, families, and all Iowans.

Workforce Alignment Review of Academic Programs

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon and Associate Chief Academic Officer Jason Pontius to present the workforce alignment review. Boon and Pontius stated that Board office and university staff were assembled to conduct the review, which included review of national best practices, significant data collection and analysis, executive leadership guidance, and external stakeholder feedback.

Regent Dunkel commended Board and university staff, Boon and Pontius for assembling the review.

Appointment of Interim President at Iowa State

- ✓ MOVED by TJADEN, SECONDED by DUNKEL, to appoint David Spalding to serve as interim president of ISU effective January 3, 2026 and continuing until March 3, 2026 or until such time as ISU President-Elect David Cook assumes Office. Spalding will have an annual salary of \$600,000.

	Bates	Cramer	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Risewick	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Absent						x		

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Adjourn

President Bates adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.