

Contact: Brock Ascher

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2025 BOARD MEETING

BOARD ROOM
BOARD OF REGENTS OFFICE
UIRBANDALE, IOWA

Board Members

Sherry Bates, President	Present
Greta Rouse, President Pro Tem	Present
Robert Cramer	Present
Nancy Dunkel	Present
Lucy Gipple	Present
Christine Hensley	Present
JC Risewick	Present
Kurt Tjaden	Present

December 3

Board Office

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

SUI

Barbara Wilson
Rod Lehnertz
Kevin Kregel

ISU

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 December 3, 2025

President Bates called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

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

Center for Intellectual Freedom Bylaws

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Executive Director Mark Braun, who presented bylaws for the Center for Intellectual Freedom.

Regent Hensley noted that the bylaws were discussed by Center for Intellectual Freedom Advisory Council and incorporated changes brought forth by Regent Cramer and others.

Regent Dunkel asked about tenure for faculty members serving in the Center. Regent Hensley noted that the Board of Regents would have authority to approve tenure.

- ✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by CRAMER, to approve the Center for Intellectual Freedom Bylaws.

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Cytown Agreements

President Bates recognized Board Counsel Aimee Claeys, who presented the Cytown Development Lease Proposals, which included building plans, financial performance and other aspects.

Regent Hensley asked if benchmarks would be established for construction and completion of projects. Regent Dunkel answered that contracts would cover such instances. Regent Cramer noted that the developer would be assuming much of the risk in the project.

- ✓ MOVED by DUNKEL, SECONDED by CRAMER, to Approve the CyTown Site Development Lease Proposals relating to the individual CyTown Development Building Projects and authorize Iowa State University to execute Site Development Leases consistent with the Site Development Lease Proposals upon review and approval by the Executive Director and Board Counsel.

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Designation of President Emerita for Wendy Wintersteen

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon, who presented the request to designate Wendy Wintersteen as President Emerita upon her retirement. Boon noted that the request comes on the recommendation of ISU faculty and other leadership and is in alignment with all ISU policies regarding emerita status.

The Regents stated that the honor was well deserved.

- ✓ MOVED by CRAMER, SECONDED by DUNKEL, to approve the request to designate Iowa State University President Wendy Wintersteen as President Emerita upon her retirement.

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Investment and Finance Committee Charge

President Bates recognized Board of Regents Executive Director Mark Braun, who presented the Investment and Finance Committee charge to perform a comprehensive review of new and additional revenue streams and efficiencies across the Regents Enterprise.

President Bates read a statement:

This is an important issue. Savings and administrative efficiencies are something that our universities have been doing for some time. And doing it very well. When comparing four-year public universities nationwide, the state of Iowa ranks as the fourth-most efficient on administrative costs in the country.

The TIER review from a decade ago was very successful and there have been additional efforts to find savings and efficiencies since then, as well. The Board has been clear that this is a priority and our universities have been doing their part. But the time is right for a new formal review to see what additional measures can be undertaken.

Therefore, I charge the Investment and Finance Committee, chaired by Regent Tjaden, to do a comprehensive review of potential new revenue streams and cost efficiencies across all three universities and report back to the Board with its recommendations.

- ✓ MOVED by TJADEN, SECONDED by ROUSE, to ratify the charge to the Investment and Finance Committee for a revenue enhancement efficiency study.

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Tjaden read a statement:

On behalf of the finance committee, I look forward to leading the charge of this revenue and efficiency analysis program with the regent institutions. I concur with President Bates’s comments: The Regent Universities have done excellent work, but more is needed and clearly with lean, we are never done.

This strategic opportunity is an ability to jointly engage the Board Office, Regent Institutions and third-party experts to challenge and expand our thinking and explore new areas of opportunity to ensure our future financial foundation remains strong.

We will provide regular updates to the Board, as requested, and we look forward to the work. Thank you.

Election of Board Leadership

President Bates opened nominations for Board President.

- ✓ MOVED by ROUSE to nominate ROBERT CRAMER as President of the Board of Regents for the term commencing December 4, 2025 and expiring April 30, 2026.
- ✓ Nominations closed by GENERAL CONSENT.
- ✓ ROLL CALL on the MOTION to approve ROBERT CRAMER as President of the Board of Regents for the term commencing December 4, 2025 and expiring April 30, 2026:

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

President Bates opened nominations for Board President Pro Tem.

- ✓ MOVED by CRAMER to nominate KURT TJADEN as President Pro Tem of the Board of Regents for the term commencing December 4, 2025 and expiring April 30, 2026.
- ✓ Nominations closed by GENERAL CONSENT.
- ✓ ROLL CALL on the MOTION to approve KURT TJADEN as President Pro Tem of the Board of Regents for the term commencing December 4, 2025 and expiring April 30, 2026:

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

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Regent Cramer thanked President Bates for her leadership and friendship and read a resolution in her honor:

WHEREAS, Sherry Bates was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Branstad on December 22, 2014, was reappointed by Governor Branstad in 2017, and reappointed again by Governor Reynolds in 2023; and

WHEREAS, she was elected President Pro Tem of the Board on June 1, 2021 and re-elected in 2022. She became interim Board President on January 16, 2024, and was elected the 23rd President of the Board of Regents on February 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, during her time, the Board approved hundreds of millions of dollars in capital projects at Iowa, Iowa State and UNI, with new and renovated academic, residential, athletics, health care and other facilities; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, successful presidential searches were conducted at each Regent University, leading to the hiring of first-class leadership at Iowa, Iowa State and UNI; and

WHEREAS, she served on the Board and led with grace, understanding, humility and caring towards all she worked with and for, and always being present with a smile and kind words; and

WHEREAS, she was always generous with her time, having served on countless committees, commissions and task forces during her tenure, both within the Board of Regents system and outside of it, providing her smart, incisive perspective to help make the best decisions possible; and

WHEREAS, coming from a farming family, she was a continuous strong advocate for the needs of rural Iowans, and as the long-time chair of the University of Iowa Health Care committee, leaned on her experience as a social worker to provide needed support and attention toward the varied, complex issues surrounding health care in our state; and

WHEREAS, she kept students top of mind in her decision making, taking the perspective of what is best for the students is ultimately best for the universities, as they are the future leaders of our state;

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

Adjourn

President Bates adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.