

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Report on Legislative Session
Date: May 10, 2004

Recommended Actions:

Receive the monthly report on 2004 legislative session.

Executive Summary:

Session Timetable The House and Senate of the 2004 General Assembly adjourned on April 20. The Governor has 30 days to act on bills he received from the legislature during the last three days of the session.

SF 2298 Omnibus Budget Bill This comprehensive budget bill provides most appropriations for the operations of state government and other related matters.

- Education and economic development appropriations at \$592.1 million (higher by about \$600,000)
 - Increases for the two special schools to restore the 2.5% across the board in addition to a 2% increase in funding (similar to other K-12 schools)
- Tuition replacement appropriations from general fund \$13.0 million
- Nullification of the state's work study program
- Change in funding for the real estate education program at UNI.
- Legislative authority for the Regent bonding package of \$120 million.
- Additional language regarding the Indigent Patient Care Program at SUI and the related issues with the Department of Human Services
- Infrastructure funding issues, which includes for the Regents:
 - \$500,000 for maintenance at the special schools
 - Overall tuition replacement at a level to coincide with the Regent bonding package
 - Tuition replacement from Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund \$0.9 million
 - Tuition replacement from tobacco securitization funds of \$10.4 million
 - \$500,000 for the UNI playground safety program

The Governor has not yet taken action on this bill.

SJR 2010
Taxpayers Rights
Amendment

This bill proposes a State constitutional amendment that requires approval by vote of the people before certain tax or fee increases take effect. The bill applies to state-enacted or local government-enacted legislation for increases to taxes and fees.

This resolution passed both houses. Gubernatorial action is not required, but the 2005-06 legislature would again need to pass it in identical form before it would go to a public vote.

HF 2418
Tuition Timing

This bill eliminates the statutory date for final Board of Regent action on setting tuition and mandatory fees.

The Governor signed this bill on May 3, 2004.


Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols