

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA  
APRIL 16, 2005**

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, held a planning retreat on April 16, 2005, at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center, Des Moines. President Pro Tempore Robert Downer convened the retreat at 9:30 a.m. The following were in attendance.

Regents present. Robert Downer, President Pro Tem; Amir Arbisser; Mary Ellen Becker; Michael Gartner, Ruth Harkin, Owen Newlin, Jenny Rokes, Rose Vasquez; Teresa Wahlert; Tom Bedell, Regent-designee.

Institutional Representatives.

University of Iowa: David Skorton

Iowa State University: Gregory Geoffroy

University of Northern Iowa: Robert Koob

Iowa School for the Deaf: Jeanne Prickett

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School: Dennis Thurman

Board Office Staff.

Executive Director Gregory Nichols, Deputy Executive Director Gary Steinke, Chief Business Officer Pam Elliott Cain, General Counsel Thomas Evans, and Communications Officer Barb Dietrich Boose

Others

Paul Lingenfelter, Executive Director, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Kent Sovern, Executive Director, Des Moines Higher Education Collaborative

Regent Downer started the planning retreat with a brief overview of the agenda. Participants introduced themselves and shared their thoughts on the role of the Board and the importance of its work.

Executive Director Nichols introduced Paul Lingenfelter, executive director of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, for his presentation, "The State of Public Higher Education Today – and How Iowa Looks from 10,000 Feet" (attached). He discussed the goals and values involved in higher education governance, noting that the public's "big goal" in higher education is to double the degree production of the 1960s with no compromise in quality. Achieving that goal requires collaboration between higher education and the state, which raises issues of accountability, costs, appropriate funding levels, and quality of education and research.

Dr. Lingenfelter then presented information about national and state trends in higher education funding, research and development, personal income levels,

and educational attainment. He noted that Iowa is a national leader in attracting first-time college freshmen from other states, but it loses many of the college graduates it educates. Iowa ranks highly among the states on several education measures but ranks poorly on economic measures, including the difference in earnings between bachelor's degrees and high school diplomas only.

Dr. Lingenfelter concluded by suggesting two policy priorities for the state:

- having a direct intervention on the economy, to the extent the universities can create spin-offs, economic growth clusters, and new jobs, and provide services to emerging industries
- building public support for investing in higher education by helping address the needs the public understands, such as supporting improvements in K-12 education

After discussion and lunch, Kent Sovern, executive director of the Des Moines Higher Education Collaborative headquartered in the new Pappajohn Center, gave a brief presentation about the Collaborative and the building. DMHEC's mission is to provide continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities to adults, linked to the business community.

Executive Board Office staff then presented historical and current information about the Board (attached). Chief Business Officer Elliott Cain reviewed Board governance, including statutory responsibilities, strategic plan priorities, processes, and state funding historically. Participants discussed the impact of funding reductions on tuition, noting that many students don't pay the "sticker price" of their education because of financial aid. The cost of tuition must be communicated more effectively to various Board constituencies, including legislators, parents and other taxpayers.

Deputy Executive Director Steinke reviewed legislative action over the years in funding the Regent universities and recent efforts to increase support among legislators. These Regent, staff, and grass-roots efforts will continue. He also reviewed components of the Board's Partnership Plan for Transformation and Excellence.

Executive Director Nichols reviewed the Board's 13 priorities adopted in June 2004 and the progress made toward each to date. He suggested the Regents consider their personal preferences and then share them with Board leadership, who plan to consult with the Regents, institution heads, and Board Office staff in April and May. Discussion and action by the Board on its annual work plan is scheduled for the June 2005 meeting.

Retreat participants shared reactions to the Board's priorities and thoughts on establishing them for the coming year, noting their relationship to the institutions' strategic plan priorities and the distinction between governance and management. The process for executive evaluations also was discussed.

Regent Downer then shared points based on his service as a Regent and as President Pro Tem:

- The Board and universities must seek ways to address the need for competitive faculty salaries, or risk loss in faculty and educational quality.
- Investing in adequate laboratory facilities will be critical to the universities' quality and ability to contribute to Iowa's economic growth.
- The universities will have to make a "stronger case" and increased contributions to economic development in Iowa, because elected officials and others are increasingly judging the institutions by those measures. Given limits on state funding, the Board and institutions should seek other, untapped funding sources.

Other Regents agreed that additional funding sources be explored and better leveraged.

Participants then briefly discussed proposed Board policy changes regarding committees, which will be considered by the Board in a telephonic meeting on April 18, 2005.

Regent Downer adjourned the planning retreat at 5:30 p.m.

  
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Gregory S. Nichols, Executive Director