

**REQUEST TO RATIFY APPOINTMENT PROPOSED BY BOARD PRESIDENT**

**Action Requested:** Consider ratification of the proposed appointment of Regent Robert Downer as one of Iowa's five Commissioners on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), to become effective immediately for a term ending July 1, 2006.

Further, the Board is requested, consistent with statute, to ratify the appointment of Mary Ellen Becker as a member of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Greg Nichols.

Finally, it is requested that the Board, consistent with the revised bylaws of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education, ratify the appointment of Michael Hogan, Greg Nichols, and Diana Gonzalez as members, Regent Rose Vasquez, Ben Allen, and Anthony Girardi as alternates, and Greg Nichols as 'permanent secretary' of the ICCPHSE.

**Executive Summary:** Iowa became a member of MHEC on July 1, 2005, the effective date of legislation to do so. The MHEC has programs which provide for cost saving efforts on commodities, promote student exchange and access programs, and lead in public policy research initiatives relevant to the member states. Iowa had previously been one of only two Midwestern states not members of the group. The legislation passed in Iowa calls for five voting MHEC commissioners to be appointed, one of whom is designated by the Regents, as was agreed to during the session. The other four voting members come from the Governor (1), the General Assembly (2), and the community colleges (1). The governor, legislature, independent colleges, and college aid commissions are allowed to designate the five "alternates" to MHEC. The Board of Regents Office has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent working with MHEC on behalf of the state. Regent Downer has been involved in several discussions in the past two years on the issue of Iowa's potential membership in the MHEC, and has attended one of their annual meetings to observe the process, along with the Executive Director. He has agreed to serve as a Commissioner now that Iowa has become a member, at the request of the Board President, and subject to ratification of the Board.

The statute governing the Iowa College Student Aid Commission requires the Regents to appoint one member to the commission. That individual must be either a Regent or the 'executive secretary' of the Board. Greg Nichols has served in this position on ICSAC for two years, but will no longer be eligible to do so once his resignation becomes effective. Regent Becker has agreed to a request to serve out the unexpired term on this commission on behalf of the Board.

The coordinating council is not a statutory creation, but a voluntary group with operating bylaws, made up of members from all sectors of higher education in the state. President Geoffroy of Iowa State University is the chair for the coming year. Recent by-laws changes allow more flexibility in appointments to this body beyond Board members, who have not traditionally been enthusiastic participants. The bylaws as revised allow for the three university presidents to serve as members, and three members plus three alternates to represent the Regents, though such appointees no longer need to be Board members. The 'permanent secretary' is a Regent designee under the ICCPHSE bylaws.