

**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



**BOARD OF
REGENTS**
STATE OF IOWA

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Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

August 11, 2008

Summary of August 2008 Meeting of Board of Regents, State of Iowa

The following summary is provided for your information.

Flood Reports

The August 2008 Board meeting included the presentation and discussion of several items related to the recent flooding at the University of Iowa, and other natural disasters across the state. The University of Iowa highlighted some of its past, current, and future accomplishments and challenges.

Past

- The University's most critical priority was the safety of the thousands of volunteers who assisted in the sandbagging effort. The University's decision to halt the sandbagging effort was due to public safety concerns; there were no injuries reported among the flood volunteers.
- The University's efforts were successful in protecting its water plant and maintaining water service to campus.
- At UIHC, tremendous efforts were undertaken to ensure the availability of all critical resources (staff, utilities, etc.) and the continued delivery of patient services.

Current

- Despite the flooding, the University reported that it will be ready for what it expects to be a near record freshman class in the fall.
- The University reports that Iowa's congressional delegation is working diligently to obtain flood relief for the University. The University is providing much information in response to requests from Senators Harkin and Grassley, particularly in an effort to increase the federal reimbursement level from 75 percent to 90 percent of the University's total flood losses.
- An enormous amount of work has been undertaken to repair the University's steam distribution system, but there is much more yet to be done.

- The University is following a strict protocol for the re-occupancy of buildings to ensure the safety of the building occupants.
- The University has put on hold any additional work on the Arts Campus. These buildings are subject to further University review before any additional funds are committed to the facilities.
- Donations to the UI Flood Relief Fund total over \$700,000 and have been received from all over the world. This private support is assisting students, faculty and staff impacted by the flooding, more so than buildings.
- The Board ratified leases for the University to provide temporary facilities, including in the former Menards building, to house the programs of the University's Arts Campus that were displaced by the flooding. (See Agenda Item 19 for additional information.)
 - This will ensure no delay or disruption to the start of these important instructional programs for the fall semester.
 - The University believes it will lease these spaces for multiple years, exercising extension options in the lease agreements.
 - The University will be investing \$1 million or more to prepare the Menards interior for use.
 - The University will be pursuing reimbursement from FEMA for the costs of leasing and improving the spaces for faculty and students; the University will work for a 90% reimbursement of these costs.

Future

- The University reported that its biggest decisions lie ahead toward full flood recovery.
- In the short term, the University emphasized the urgency of having reliable utilities in operation for the winter heating season, which will be a very big task.
- In the long term, the University will need to build a new west campus power plant at an estimated cost of \$60 million. The University expects the power plant would have the capacity to provide emergency energy and steam service to both the east and west campuses.
- The University reported that there will be some revisions to the loss categories that total the \$231.75 million damage estimate reported to FEMA. In addition, the University expects significant costs for business interruption; these costs are not included in the \$231.75 million estimate, since FEMA does not reimburse for business interruption costs.
- The flooding will have a definite impact on the University's FY 2009 budget (also approved at the August meeting), but this impact will not be known for several weeks or months. President Miles acknowledged that there is much work to sort through to finalize the University's flood costs, and he would expect more flexibility in the University's budget than seen in previous years as the University responds to new challenges that arise relative to its flood recovery.

- The University will be working on future flood mitigation planning. This will involve hiring a national consultant on flood mitigation, and working closely with FEMA, the Department of Natural Resources, Corps of Engineers, and University insurance carriers.
- Some examples of possible flood mitigation measures for review could include tearing down buildings, modifying utility tunnels to isolate them from campus buildings, constructing levee systems, and moving HVAC systems from the lower portions of buildings.

President Miles congratulated the University, especially its faculty, students, administrators, and alumni, and the community, on its response to the flooding and its tremendous efforts. This included the preparation of 1.1 million sandbags, which greatly minimized the damage impact to the University facilities. He acknowledged that the University and the Board have much work yet to do together, and that the Board is glad to support the University in this effort.

Related to the University of Iowa flood recovery costs, Regent Gartner requested that the Board Office prepare a report relative to the Jackson Pollock art work in the University's art collection. The purpose of the report would be to evaluate the pros and cons of possibly selling the art work and applying the proceeds toward flood recovery costs. He asked that the Board Office report include information on the art work's value to a public museum, legal and policy issues, insurance and security costs, as well as other issues.

The Board received a report on the assistance provided by the UNI Regional Business Center to Iowa's small businesses and communities that were impacted by the state's recent natural disasters.

- The Center reports that over 4,000 businesses in Iowa rural communities were affected by the disasters
- President Miles applauded the Center's dedication and response, which is benefiting many Iowans who were affected by Iowa's natural disasters.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Donley provided an update on the ongoing work related to the Board priorities outlined below:

- **Strategic Planning** – development of a plan to guide the Regents enterprise for the next ten years, to ensure a world class educational system, and to strive to be best higher education system in the world.
- **Communications and Marketing Planning** – development of a plan for communicating how the Regent institutions are positively affecting our state.
- **Student Debt** – in response to data indicating that Regent university students carry some of the highest debt load in the nation, will study how student debt occurs, educational costs, access, and financial aid availability.
- **Sustainability** – will outline the numerous changes undertaken by the institutions in terms of sustainability.

Iowa State University Update

President Geoffroy reported a significant enrollment increase for the fall 2009 semester. This includes a 6 percent increase in new freshman, a 2 percent increase in transfer students, and a 3 percent increase in overall enrollment growth (an additional 900 students over last year).

President Geoffroy also reported a tremendous increase in private fund raising over the past year. The University received \$124 million in private funds, exceeding its goal of \$110 million.

President Geoffroy announced the Growing Iowa Economy Conference to be held September 9 and 10, 2008, at ISU. This is a national conference to engage all lowans who are interested in the latest advances and information in biofuels and the bioeconomy.

University of Northern Iowa Update

President Allen provided an update on the **STEM** initiative

- He reported that the initiative is moving forward with a number of established elements of the STEM program, and it is developing a number of additional affiliations and partnerships with private industry, community colleges, K-12 schools, etc.
- He outlined a current effort of the initiative to prepare high school students for university math courses.

Proposed New ISU Basketball Practice Facility

The Board authorized Iowa State University to move forward with development of a new basketball practice facility. The University's proposal is the result of an opportunity the University received from a local Ames developer, who would construct the facility on land located in southwest Ames, and sell the facility to the University upon completion of construction. The University reported that this proposal would allow development of the facility in very economical manner and in a short time period. The project would be funded by the Department of Athletics. (See Agenda Item 8 for additional information.)

The University also reported that the availability of a dedicated practice facility for basketball could enhance the athletes' academic success as it would allow the athletes to reschedule their practices for afternoon hours. Their current schedule of evening practices restricts their use of the Academic Success Center, where they could spend time in the evenings studying with other athletes and taking advantage of the Center's resources. Regent Downer expressed his appreciation for the University's emphasis on academics with respect to the building, and for addressing the conflict between athletic schedules and academic performance.

Salary Increases

The Board approved the following salary increases of institutional heads:

- Superintendent Prickett at ISD - 5% increase
- President Allen at UNI - \$20,000 salary increase, with bonus incentive ranging from \$0 to a maximum of \$25,000, with a target of \$12,500
- President Geoffroy - \$25,000 salary increase, with bonus incentive ranging from \$0 to a maximum of \$50,000, with a target of \$25,000

The Board President will develop the incentive goals and report them to the Board.

President Miles reported that the salary increases reflect the Board's evaluation of the strength of its institutional leaders, and the Board's belief that their performance deserves to be rewarded.

FY 2009 University Budgets

The Board approved the FY 2009 budgets for the three universities totaling \$3.9 billion; this includes \$2.5 billion for the University of Iowa, \$1.1 billion for Iowa State University, and \$318 million for the University of Northern Iowa. (See Agenda Item 15 for additional information.)

As indicated previously, the flooding will have a definite impact on the University's FY 2009 budget, but this impact will not be known for several weeks or months. President Miles acknowledged that there is much work to sort through to finalize the University's flood costs, and he would expect more flexibility in the University's budget than seen in previous years as the University responds to new challenges that arise relative to its flood recovery.

Naming of Wing of Russell Hall at UNI

The Board approved the naming of a wing of Russell Hall at the University of Northern Iowa (which houses the School of Music) as "Barrett Wing," in honor of a very generous leadership gift from Pauline Barrett of Waterloo. Her gift made possible the completion of an addition to Russell Hall. (See Agenda Item 22 for additional information.)

Grow Iowa Values Fund Proposals

The Board approved the universities' FY 2009 proposals for use of \$4.8 million in appropriations to the **Grow Iowa Values Fund (GIVF)**, which is a critical economic development tool that provides funding to support university initiatives that can positively impact the Iowa economy. (See Agenda Item 23 for additional information.)

- The universities will apply the funds to their initiatives in technology transfer, commercialization, development of projects utilizing university technologies, job creation, regional development, and rural entrepreneurship.

- University representatives reported that GIVF is a very worthwhile program for the state, as it is getting an excellent return on a small investment for the Iowa economy.

Voluntary System of Accountability at Regent Universities

The Board received a report on the Regents universities' participation in **the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)**. (See Agenda Item 26 for additional information.)

- VSA is a web-based system that communicates information on the undergraduate student experience at public colleges and universities across the country.
- VSA is a very useful tool for prospective and current students and their families, who will be able to find key facts and comparable information on costs, enrollment, areas of study and degrees offered, student housing, and campus safety, for participating institutions.
- VSA will also be valuable for demonstrating the institutions' accountability and stewardship to the public, including legislators, governing boards, and others.

President Miles thanked the universities for their early participation in this transparency effort.

Iowa Public Radio Annual Report

The Board received the annual report on Iowa Public Radio (IPR) from Steve Carignan, Acting Executive Director. (See Agenda Item 27 for additional information.)

Mr. Carignan outlined the **Iowa Public Radio Listening Project** and the different methods this provides for public input into IPR's programming decisions. This has included research of current and prospective listeners for their thoughts on the aspirations of IPR. Read more on this process at the following link to the web site for the Iowa Public Radio Listening Project: <http://www.iowapublicradio.org/listeningProject.php>

The Iowa Public Radio Listening Project also allows IPR listeners to share their ideas and comments on IPR's programming decisions. This listener response effort consists of a team of individuals who respond to every listener comment and complaint. When IPR receives a number of complaints in a particular area of interest, these complaints and concerns, as well as IPR's response, are shared on the IPR web site. The complaints are used to guide IPR's programming decisions and, in some cases, have resulted in the return of some programs. The public can submit comments at the following link to the web site for the Iowa Public Radio Listening Project: <http://www.iowapublicradio.org/contactForm.php>

Prepared by Robert Donley, Executive Director
8/11/08