REQUEST TO MODIFY THE 2010 – 2016 BOARD OF REGENTS STRATEGIC PLAN

Action Requested: Consider modification of Goal #1 and Goal #8 in the 2010 – 2016 Board of Regents Strategic Plan.

Executive Summary: In order to address the strategic issues identified by the environmental scan and the stakeholder workshops conducted by the Board prior to developing the strategic plan, the Board selected three priority issues – (1) access, affordability, and student success; (2) educational excellence and impact; and (3) economic development and vitality. Through partnerships with the state, the Iowa business community, and with institutions and organizations across the country and the world, the Regent Enterprise has relied on the Strategic Plan to address state needs and position itself to be a recognized leader in public higher education and education for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and blind or visually impaired.

Background: The Board has identified the following goals, accountability measures, and targets to accomplish the three priorities:

Goal 1. Iowa’s public universities shall be affordable to all academically qualified Iowa residents.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the percentage of undergraduate resident tuition set-aside revenue allocated to students who demonstrate the most need (eligible to receive the maximum Pell Grant).

Target. The amount of undergraduate resident tuition set-aside revenue for students who demonstrate the most need (eligible to receive the maximum Pell Grant) will increase commensurate with tuition increases and by an additional 6% at each of Iowa’s public universities by 2016.

The 2013 General Assembly included the following language in HF 604(§17): “Prohibit the designation of a portion of the tuition moneys collected from resident undergraduate students by institutions of higher education governed by the board for use for student aid purposes. However, such institutions may designate that a portion of the tuition moneys collected from nonresident students be used for such purposes.”

Prohibition of the use of tuition revenues for student financial aid necessitates the following proposed change to the accountability measure and target of Goal 1.

Goal 1. Iowa’s public universities shall be affordable to all academically qualified Iowa residents.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the total amount of student financial aid for undergraduate resident students who demonstrate need provided by the institutions using state appropriations and other allowable revenues.

Target. The amount of student financial aid for undergraduate resident students who demonstrate need provided by the institutions using state appropriations and other allowable revenues will increase by 3% by 2016 (using 2013 as the base year).
Goal 8. Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.

Accountability Measure. Inter-institutional efficiencies and cost-savings resulting from collaborative initiatives within and between the Regent institutions.

Target. The Board Office and institutions set a baseline of performance and established a target of four inter-institutional projects per year with a description of the value of the improvements.

A revision is requested because the universities already report on collaborative projects per the Iowa Code. Goal #8 required a significant amount of repetition and difficulty to generate individual savings reported cumulatively to the legislature and frequently included the Department of Administrative Services. This proposed change also aligns the goal with the other Strategic Plan goals that are reported by each institution. Consideration also needs to be given to the Special Schools because they benefit from purchasing, vendor, and facilities savings through negotiations conducted by the universities.

The following changes are proposed to the accountability measure and target for Goal 8.

Goal 8. Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.

Accountability Measure. Efficiencies and cost-savings resulting from initiatives within the Regent institutions.

Target. At each Regent institution, a minimum of 24 projects will be undertaken during the next five years which will provide positive, programmatic, and financial impact. The tangible benefits and cost savings from these individual projects will be reported to the Board of Regents as they are completed and summarized in the annual Strategic Plan progress reports. Projects will be sought in each of the following areas: Human Resources; Procurement; Informational Technology; and Facilities.