

Contact: Mark Braun

UNI FUTURE CENTER DISCUSSION

Action Requested: Approve planning for the center and provide an update to the Board at the February 2026 Board meeting.

Executive Summary: The University of Northern Iowa is taking steps to prepare for the arrival of U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley's official Senate papers and laying the groundwork for the creation of the Chuck and Barbara Grassley Center.

Reporting to the Office of the President, the Grassley Center will position UNI as a national hub for the study of democratic governance and public service, strengthening the university's mission of preparing students to lead in Iowa, the nation and the world.

The Grassley Center will build on UNI's strong tradition of civic education, research and public engagement. By serving as the home for Senator Grassley's extensive archive – spanning nearly seven decades of service in elected office – the Center will provide students, faculty and the public with an unparalleled opportunity to study the legislative process, policymaking and the role of government institutions.

Below is an outline of the main action steps UNI needs to undertake to prepare for receiving Senator Chuck Grassley's U.S. Senate papers and establishing the Chuck and Barbara Grassley Center.

UNI anticipates bringing to the Iowa Board Regents a separate request to approve the creation of the Center in September of 2026.

Future Steps:

1. Planning to receive Senator Chuck Grassley's U.S. Senate papers
 - Establish planning committee
 - Inventory review and analysis
 - Space and facilities assessment
 - Strategy to describe and digitize the collection
 - Budget and resource planning
2. Center concept development
 - Establish steering committee
 - Vision and mission drafting
 - Governance structure
 - Feasibility study
 - Initial stakeholder engagement
 - Developing partnerships
 - Resource mobilization

- Fundraising and endowment campaign
- Space planning (UNI Commons)
- Staffing needs assessment
- Future program planning
 - Academic partnerships
 - Public engagement programming
- 3. Long-term stewardship & visibility
 - Establish advisory board
 - Establish permanent endowment to ensure sustainability
 - Sustainable funding and outreach
 - Develop signature programs
 - Scholarly and public programming
 - Expand national reach