Contact: Rachel Boon

MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LEVITT CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Committee Members

Christine Hensley, Chair	Present
Greta Rouse, Vice Chair	Present
Lucy Gipple	Present

Also Attending
Regents: Tjaden, Dunkel, Cramer, Cownie, Lacy, Risewick
Presenters: Jose Herrera (UNI), Rachel Boon (BOR), Jason Pontius (BOR)

Call to Order
Chair Hensley called the meeting to order at 1:40pm.

Minutes of April 23, 2026 Committee Meeting

No changes or additions.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

UNI New Program Request: BA/BS in Health Sciences

Provost Herrera described the new program as a restructuring of existing programs in Public Health and Applied Health Science. This will be a strategic and more efficient way to offer these programs and provide a structure for future programs. No new faculty or facilities are needed. UNI anticipates a modest increase in enrollment in this adaptable program.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

UNI New Center Request: Ed AdvantageUNI

Provost Herrera described the new center as a revisioning of the functions in the NPPS and other areas on campus. This will provide an outreach hub similar to Business and Community Services at UNI. They anticipate statewide impact.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

UNI Center Termination Request: National Program for Playground Safety

Provost Herrera shared that this center reached the end of grant funding and some elements of the remaining work can be subsumed under the new Ed AdvantageUNI Center.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

Request for New Degree Type: Bachelor of Applied Professional Studies

Board Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon provided comments on the framework for a reduced credit bachelor's degree that will be called the Bachelor of Applied Professional Studies. The degree type will be available at all three universities and they are all in development with their proposed first programs. A focus on aligning to workforce needs in Iowa is a central component, and once the institutions have proposals, they will need to pursue approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer this new degree type.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

Admissions Study Team Biennial Review of RAI

Board Associate Chief Academic Officer Jason Pontius shared the biennial report from the Admissions Study Team. The cross-institutional analysis is intended to ensure our Regent Admission Index is working as designed and provides an opportunity for any adjustments.

Recommendations from this review are to maintain the 245 cut point for automatic admission, maintenance of the test-optional pathway, and a working group to study grade inflation in high schools.

Regent Cownie noted that grade and GPA inflation is worth evaluating. He emphasized the importance of students who are likely to succeed.

Regent Rouse clarified that the RAI is only required to be used for Iowa residents.

✓ *The committee accepted the report.*

Other business: None

Chair Hensley adjourned the meeting at 2:13pm.