IOWA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM 5a
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2026

Contact: Brock Ascher

MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2026 BOARD MEETING

BOARD ROOM
BOARD OF REGENTS OFFICE
URBANDALE, IOWA

Board Members	**July 29**
Robert Cramer, President	Present
Kurt Tjaden, President Pro Tem	Present
Peter Cownie	Present
Nancy Dunkel	Present
Lucy Gipple	Present
Christine Hensley	Present
Steve Lacy	Present
Greta Rouse	Present

Board Office
Brock Ascher, Mark Braun, Rachel Boon, Aimee Claeys, Kent Farver, Carolann Jensen, Josh Lehman, Jason Pontius, Keith Saunders.

SUI	**ISU**	**UNI**
Barbara Wilson	David Cook	Mark Nook
Rod Lehnertz	Sean Reeder	Michael Hager
Kevin Kregel	Michael Norton	José Herrera

The corresponding memorandum for each agenda item, an integral component of the minutes, is available on the Board of Regents website: http://www.iowaregents.edu. Copies of these memoranda can also be obtained from the Board Office by calling 515-281-3934. Video of the meeting is also available on the website.

Call to Order for July 29, 2026
President Cramer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent								

Closed Session

✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by COWNIE to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.1.i, to conduct performance evaluations of the Institutional Heads and Executive Director as necessary to prevent the needless and irreparable injury to each individual's reputation. Each individual has requested that their evaluation be conducted in closed session; and in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.1.c, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent and premature disclosure would likely prejudice or disadvantage the position of the Board.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

The Board convened in closed session at 8:31 a.m.
The Board convened in open session at 2:18 p.m.

Consent Agenda

✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by TJADEN to approve the following CONSENT AGENDA items:
a) Minutes of June 15-16, 2026 Meeting
b) Policy Manual Revision – Chapter 2.2.6
c) Policy Manual Revision – Chapter 2.2.6.D
d) Administrative Rules
e) Policy Manual Revisions Chapter 2.1 – Human Resources

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Policy Manual Update – Chapter 1.2
President Cramer recognized Board of Regents Executive Director Mark Braun, who presented a first and final reading for the creation of the Board of Regents Center for Intellectual Freedom (CIF) Committee. Regents Hensley and Cramer were designated Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, with Regent Lacy serving as a member and the Director or Interim Director of the Center designated as staff of the committee. The CIF Committee will meet at least quarterly and report its activities and recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Regent Hensley said she thought the committee was an excellent way to move forward with the center.

✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by COWNIE to approve, as a first and final reading, revisions to Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter 1.2 – Board of Regents Committees, to create a new standing committee.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

CyTown Update
President Cramer recognized ISU General Counsel Michael Norton, who provided an update on the CyTown, a mixed-use development project being constructed between the Iowa State Center and Jack Trice Stadium.

Regent Hensley asked about the timeline for completion. Norton replied that the project was running behind and is expected to be completed in early 2028.

Regent Tjaden asked for a dollar amount on the revenue guarantee. Norton replied that the revenue guarantee comes to $160 million over 30 years.

FY 2027 Budgets
President Cramer recognized Board of Regents Chief Business Officer Kent Farver, who presented 2027 budgets for the three universities, the Board Office and the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

Regent Tjaden thanked the Board Office staff and university staff for their work preparing the budgets. He noted that the budget is increasing by just 2.5%, driven primarily by a modest tuition increase. He also noted that this situation is not new, as the Regents enterprise has faced flat or declining state and federal support for the last 20 years. Tjaden praised the budget process, noting its transparency and strong focus on cost efficiency and effectiveness.

Presidents Mark Nook, David Cook and Barbara Wilson presented budget updates for their respective universities.

✓ MOVED by ROUSE, SECONDED by DUNKEL to approve the Regent universities, Board Office and Lakeside Laboratory FY 2027 budgets, as presented.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Presidents and Executive Director Compensation

✓ MOVED by LACY, SECONDED by ROUSE to approve the following compensation changes for UI President Barbara Wilson: Extend her employment agreement for two additional years, Increase her base salary by $50,000 effective July 1, 2026. Establish a new deferred compensation plan commencing July 1, 2028 and terminating June 30, 2030 with annual contributions of $555,880.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Adjourn

President Cramer adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Call to Order for June 16, 2026
President Cramer called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Roll Call:

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent								

Consent Agenda
Regent Cramer removed portions of Item d for discussion and a separate vote. Specifically, items 4d.1.e Policy Manual Revisions Chapter 3.7 – Academic Program Review; and 4d.1.g Policy Manual Revisions Chapter 2.1 – Human Resources.

✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by ROUSE to approve the remaining CONSENT AGENDA items:
f) Minutes of April 22-23, 2026 Board Meeting
g) Meeting of June 15, 2026 Property and Facilities Committee
h) Meeting of June 15, 2026 Academic Affairs Committee
i) Meeting of June 15, 2026 Governance, Evaluation, and Human Resources Committee
j) Meeting of June 15, 2026 Investment and Finance Committee

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

✓ MOVED by TJADEN, SECONDED by HENSLEY to approve the Item 4d.1.g Policy Manual Revisions Chapter 3.7 – Academic Program Review.

Regent Dunkel explained that the Board's role is governance, not management, and that directly reviewing the content of courses would move the Board from one to the other, set a worrying precedent and send the wrong message to students, faculty and researchers.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x			x	x		x
Nay			x	x			x	

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

✓ MOVED by HENSLEY, SECONDED by TJADEN to approve the Item 4d.1.e Policy Manual Revisions Chapter 2.1 – Human Resources.

Regent Rouse stated that she would be voting no on the proposal to add a Regent to search committees of direct presidential reports, noting that the change blurs an important governance boundary. She stated that clear lines between governance and administration best serves the state and the interests of the universities.

Regent Dunkel echoed her comments from earlier and agreed with Regent Rouse's comments.

President Cramer stated that this is intended as a way to help the presidents and for the Board to have a voice in the hiring process.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x			x	x		x
Nay			x	x			x	

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Reports from University Presidents
Presidents Barbara Wilson, Mark Nook and David Cook presented updates on their respective campuses.

Faculty Presentation
President Cramer recognized Dr. Jill Kolesar, Dean, Professor and Jean M. Schmidt Chair in Drug Discovery at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy to present to the Board on improving cancer outcomes in Iowa.

Executive Director Search
President Cramer recognized Board of Regents Chief Operating Officer Carolann Jensen, who presented requests for authorization for the Governance, Evaluation and Human Resources Committee to begin the search for a new Board of Regents Executive Director to replace Mark Braun, who is retiring.

✓ MOVED by LACY, SECONDED by HENSLEY to Direct the Governance, Evaluation and Human Resources Committee to do the following: a. Advertise for, select and enter into an agreement with a search firm to provide consulting services for the Iowa Board of Regents Executive Director Search; b. Develop a process and timetable for the Iowa Board of Regents Executive Director; c. Conduct a search for the Iowa Board of Regents Executive Director.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

Closed Session
✓ MOVED by LACY, SECONDED by HENSLEY to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.1.c, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent and premature disclosure would likely prejudice or disadvantage the position of the Board; and to seek confidential advice from legal counsel in pending matter(s) under attorney-client privilege as provided in Iowa Code section 622.10.

	Cramer	Cownie	Dunkel	Gipple	Hensley	Lacy	Rouse	Tjaden
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nay								

MOTION APPROVED by ROLL CALL.

The Board convened in closed session at 11:19 a.m.
The Board convened in open session at 12:10 p.m.

Adjourn
President Cramer adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.