

Contact: Keith Saunders

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
HEALTH CARE BOARD OF ADVISORS**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval regarding the establishment of the University of Iowa Health Care Board of Advisors.

**Executive Summary:** The University of Iowa is proposing to create a UI Health Care Board of Advisors to advise the President of the University of Iowa and the University of Iowa Vice-President for Medical Affairs on policy issues, performance improvement and long-term planning activities.

**Background:** UI Health Care is one of Iowa's greatest assets. As the state's only comprehensive academic medical center and largest multi-specialty group practice, UI Health Care conducts groundbreaking biomedical research; educates the next generation of scientists and health care providers; and provides high quality, patient-centered care, including specialized care, community services, and caring for underserved Iowans. While UI Health Care has made important contributions to the improvement of the health of Iowans through combined roles in education, research and patient care, the future is presenting a very different set of demands for the organization. The aging of the population, the advances in biomedical and information technology, the increasing demand for higher safety and quality of care, and worries for many about access to care represent some of the challenges that we are presently facing.

These transformative changes occurring in the health care field require governing boards of health care organizations, including the Board of Regents, to be engaged at a level that has never been asked before. Therefore, the University of Iowa believes that enhancing the governance of UI Health Care and the involvement of the Board of Regents will contribute to continuing improvement in the performance of UI Health Care.

The President of the University of Iowa in consultation with the Vice President for Medical Affairs (VPMA) will be responsible for the appointments to the UI Health Care Board of Advisors.

**Membership (13 members)**

The UI Health Care Board will be comprised of 10-13 individuals, including

- President of the University of Iowa (chair of the board)
- Vice President for Medical Affairs (vice chair)
- 2 members of the Board of Regents
- Chief Executive Officer of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
- Dean, Carver College of Medicine
- Dean, Colleges of Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy and Dentistry on a two year rotating basis
- Vice President for Finance and Operations
- General Counsel
- 4 external independent members (named by the President of the University of Iowa)

### **Functions and Responsibilities of the Advisory Board**

The UI Health Care Board of Advisors will operate within the framework of policies established by the Board of Regents, subject both to the authority of the Regents and to the reporting structure of the University of Iowa. Within that framework, the proposed board would advise the President on the operations and directions of UI Health Care which includes the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) and University of Iowa Physicians (UIP).

The new board will, at a minimum, review and advise the President of the University of Iowa on the following functions:

1. UI Health Care strategic plan development and implementation
2. Long-term financial plan
3. Long-term capital plan development and implementation
4. Master facilities plan
5. Long-term indebtedness
6. Financial and internal audits
7. Oversight of patient safety and quality
8. Audit and compliance
9. Human resources and workforce development

The current reporting structure with the University will remain unchanged. The Vice President for Medical Affairs (VPMA) would remain directly accountable to the President of the University. The Chief Executive Officer of UIHC and the Dean of the Carver College of Medicine will continue to report to the Vice President for Medical Affairs. The Dean will also remain accountable to the Executive Vice President and Provost with respect to the academic mission of the Carver College of Medicine. The UIP will continue to be accountable to the VPMA through the dean of the Carver College of Medicine and its present organizational structure will remain in place.

A minimum of five subcommittees of the Board would be charged by the Board of Advisors to focus on various elements of UI Health Care. These subcommittees would focus on the following areas:

- Finance & Strategy - Provides oversight of financial affairs, including the operating and capital budget. Reviews, advises, and reports on the investment and management of financial resources, Recommends overall corporate business policy, long-term strategic plans, and urgent corporate strategic issues.
- Audit and Compliance - Ensures independent auditor review of financial performance and management reports. Provides oversight of compliance, ensuring accordance with pertinent regulatory standards.
- Quality, Safety and Service - Supports the oversight and enhancement of clinical quality, patient safety, and service excellence.
- Human Resources and Workforce Development - Reviews and makes recommendations on hospital personnel policies and procedures.