

Contact: Michael Gartner

### STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

**Action Requested:** Receive an update.

**Executive Summary:** President Gartner will provide an update on the preliminary strategic visioning meetings which have taken place with the three university presidents in preparation for a formal strategic planning process for the Board of Regents. Based on these meetings, it appears there are five overarching issues facing the Regent universities in the coming decade.

#### 1. Admissions

There is much concern on the campuses that many freshmen and transfer students (i.e. area community colleges) are ill-prepared for the rigors of college, especially in science and math. Part of this is currently being addressed by the committee studying admission standards, which includes the three university presidents. See Agenda Item 3a.

#### 2. Students

How can the Regent enterprise, as a whole, offer the very best it has to lowans of any age and at any locality? There is a feeling that a mechanism is needed where students on any campus as well as off campus can avail themselves of courses or activities that are uniquely offered on another of the Regent campuses.

#### 3. Competition

- Where is it healthy for the three Regent universities to compete with one another and where may it be wasteful of effort and taxpayer dollars?
- What non-academic activities should be consolidated and coordinated, and which activities should be campus-centered?
- What areas should each university excel in?
- Are there areas that any university should de-emphasize?

#### 4. Alliances

- What alliances should the Regent universities be making in addition to the alliances with one another?
- How can they work better with the area community colleges to the benefit of the students who want to go on to a four-year education?
- How can they work better with K-12 and what helpful and relevant services can the universities provide?
- What should be the universities' relationships with private colleges? With peer institutions? With business and industry? With the arts?

#### 5. Iowa

- How can the universities work more effectively and more efficiently with all lowans since the universities touch nearly everyone through medical care from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, through rural and small-town contacts from the ISU Extension Service, through training of teachers at UNI, through research and economic development efforts at all three universities, through cultural and athletic performances?
- Is the Regent enterprise now doing the very best it can in all of these efforts? Is the enterprise focusing its efforts correctly?
- How can the Regent universities continue to be good citizens and become even better?