November 22, 2016

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad, Governor
State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA  50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

This letter provides information about the meeting of the Board of Regents on December 5-6 in the Oak Room of Maucker Union on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa.

The meeting materials are available on the Regents website at the following address:

http://www.iowaregents.edu/meetings/upcoming-meetings-and-agendas/

Audio streaming of the meeting may be accessed through the Board of Regents website. I am available at any time to answer questions about the meeting materials or any other matter.

The Property and Facilities committee, chaired by Regent Dakovich, will meet at 8 a.m. on December 5. The committee will review the register of capital improvement transactions for the University of Iowa (P&F item 2). Highlights of the proposed 11 projects include permission to proceed with project planning for renovation of the Communications Center. This project would modernize the center to create space for the sociology department, an academic testing center and classrooms. The estimated project cost of $10 to $12 million would be funded from treasurer’s temporary investment income and building renewal funds.

The committee will consider approval of schematic design, project description and budget for a renovation of the Pathology Core Lab. This project would expand the lab, which is located on the sixth floor of the Roy J. Carver Pavilion, by approximately 10,000 gross square feet. The $20 million project would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.

The committee will consider approval of schematic design, project description and budget for relocation of neurology and neonatology offices from other locations. This project would involve the construction of 65 faculty and staff offices on level 8 of both the John Colloton Pavilion and level 8 of the John Pappajohn Pavilion. The project cost is $5.67 million and would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.

The committee will consider approval of schematic design and project description for the relocation of processed stores to support expansion of central sterilization services. Continued growth of CSS operative procedures and patient census have necessitated more area for sterilized instruments and patient equipment. The project cost is $5 million and would be funded by UIHC building usage funds.
The committee will consider approval of the schematic design, project description and budget for capacity expansion for the main campus power plant. The power plant supplies all utilities to UIHC, as well as university research, residence hall, classroom and office buildings. This project would replace existing steam-generating equipment with new, more efficient equipment and replace the two smallest steam turbine electrical generators with higher efficiency units to permit better performance at a lower operating cost. The project budget of $49.5 million would be funded by utility system revenue bonds.

The committee will request approval of project description and budget for replacement of a portion of the steam distribution system. This second and final phase would replace 900 feet of a 70-year-old steam distribution system under Grand Avenue that is the primary link between the west side of campus and the power plant. The project budget of $17.95 million would be funded by utility system revenue bonds, and renewal and improvement funds.

The committee also will consider ratification of the Executive Director of the Board’s request for emergency contracting authorization regarding the power plant air regulation compliance project. To alleviate potential issues, the Executive Director made a finding of the need to install temporary boilers. More information is available in P&F item 3.

The committee will review the register of capital improvement transactions for Iowa State University (P&F item 4). The first project to consider is approval of schematic design, project description and budget for the Student Innovation Center. This project would construct a new student-focused facility to provide a high-quality, centralized space to support a student-driven culture of innovation. This project would also demolish the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory, constructed in 1934, and the southeast end of Sweeney Hall, constructed in 1927. The demolition of these buildings would eliminate $3 million in deferred maintenance costs. The project budget of $84 million would be funded by state appropriations and private giving.

The second project is to request approval of project description and budget for bathroom remodeling at Richardson Court Residence Halls. This would remodel bathrooms for 817 students throughout Birch, Welch, Roberts, Barton, Lyon and Freeman Halls. The project budget of $11.44 million would be funded by dormitory system funds.

The third and fourth projects are to request approval of project descriptions and budgets for replacement of student room flooring, corridor lighting and windows, and interior painting of Wallace and Wilson Residence Halls. This work could take place during summers of 2017 and 2018. The total project budget of $6.0 million would be funded by dormitory system funds.

The committee will then consider Iowa State University’s request to name the Iowa State University Black Cultural Center the “George Jackson Cultural Center” in honor of the late Dr. George Jackson. Dr. Jackson was passionate about students’ rights and helping them reach their highest potential in education. He began his career at Iowa State University as the director of Multicultural Student Affairs in 1978, and later become the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. During his time in these positions, he worked closely with admissions and financial aid to significantly increase the number of underrepresented students on campus. He retired from ISU in 2009 and passed away this summer. More information is available in P&F item 5.

The committee will consider Iowa State’s request to purchase 68.38 acres of land south of the ISU Research Park at a price of $2.19 million. This land would be used for continued economic development brought by the research park, and additional agricultural operations for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The property purchase would be funded by proceeds from prior land sales and facility overhead use funds. More information is available in P&F item 6.
The committee will consider several institutional agreements, leases and easements. Among the items for consideration is a lease with the city of Vinton to allow 7.2 acres at the south end of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School property to be continued to be used as a public park. The park is called “Kiwanis Park” and has been leased by the city of Vinton every 10 years. This lease contains a new provision to allow the city of Vinton to build a “splash pad” on the park, allowing for outdoor water play.

At approximately 9 a.m. on Monday, December 5, following the meeting of the Property and Facilities Committee, the UNI Presidential Search and Screen Committee will meet. Later in the day, the Board will meet in closed session with the Presidential Search and Screen Committee.

At approximately 1 p.m. the full Board of Regents will convene in open session. The Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, chaired by Regent McKibben, will hold its meeting at this time. The committee will receive the third quarter investment and cash management report from Marquette Associates, Inc. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee will then meet. The committee will receive the operating and financial performance report, as well as proposed amendments to UIHC bylaws.

The Board will have its second reading of proposed conditional 2017-2018 tuition and mandatory fees. Consistent with the Board’s strategic plan adopted in July, determining and fulfilling appropriate resource needs are essential in providing high quality public education, cutting-edge research and needed public services. Predictability, transparency and long-term planning strategies are woven throughout the plan. In September, the Board proposed a two-year appropriations and tuition plan to demonstrate resource needs while giving consideration to costs that may be absorbed through efficiencies and reallocations. It is proposed that tuition for undergraduate resident students at all three universities be increased by 2 percent for FY 2018, with varying increases to nonresident and graduate rates. Agenda item 9 has additional details.

On Tuesday, December 6, the Board will convene at 9 a.m. in open session. The Board will then move into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of individuals whose appointment or hiring is being considered for the presidency at the University of Northern Iowa. Later in the day, the Board is expected to convene in open session to appoint UNI’s 11th president.

Other agenda items for the Board include:

- Receiving bids for the sale and award of two sets of bonds totaling an estimated $30.5 million. More detailed information on these bond sales is available in agenda items 10a and 10b.

- Consideration of approval of the University of Iowa’s 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. More information is available in agenda item 7.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Rastetter

cc: Lt. Governor Kimberly Reynolds
Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa