

***Governing Iowa's public  
universities and special schools***

University of Iowa  
Iowa State University  
University of Northern Iowa  
Iowa School for the Deaf  
Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and  
Visually Impaired  
Lakeside Laboratory Regents Resource Center  
Western Iowa Regents Resource Center



Michael J. Richards, MD, President, *West Des Moines*  
Patty Cownie, President Pro Tem, *Des Moines*  
David R. Barker, PhD, *Iowa City*  
Sherry Bates, *Scranton*  
Nancy Boettger, *Harlan*  
Milt Dakovich, *Waterloo*  
Nancy Dunkel, *Dyersville*  
Zack Leist, *Clarion*  
Jim Lindenmayer, PhD, *Ottumwa*

Mark J. Braun, EdD, Executive Director

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor  
State of Iowa  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

This letter provides information about the meeting of the Board of Regents on February 24 that will be held virtually. With the current spread of coronavirus, we are following guidance of not holding large gatherings in person and will conduct our business online. Live streaming of the meeting may be accessed via the Board's website.

For your convenience, the meeting agenda is included after this letter. Full meeting materials are available on the Board of Regents website at the following link:

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

Below are some specific individual items that are on the agenda:

As I have made clear in the past, everyone has the right to express their own opinion. Freedom of expression is a bedrock principle of higher education, and having respectful debate on issues is something that should happen on our university campuses.

In November, I established a Free Speech Committee to the Board of Regents, with the charge of evaluating the implementation of the Board's policy, as well as best practices from other institutions, and bring any recommendations on changes that need to be made to strengthen our efforts to the Board. The Free Speech Committee has met throughout the winter and is bringing forward a total of 10 recommendations. Among them are:

- Each course syllabus at our universities will have a statement supporting and upholding the freedom of speech at all times, including in classrooms.
- Reaffirming that university resources will not be used for partisan activities, and the universities may only take institutional positions on policy matters in conjunction with the Board.
- The universities will not permit discrimination or denial of educational benefits because of the viewpoint of a student or student organization.
- The universities must add policies and procedures, including penalties for free speech violations, to its current processes, and post all policies online.
- The universities must provide annual free speech training to all students, faculty and staff.

A complete list of the recommendations can be found in Agenda Item 5.

Other items of business include:

- The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee, chaired by Regent Bates, will meet at 10:30 a.m. The committee will receive the current operating and financial performance report, and a faculty presentation.
- The Audit and Compliance Committee, chaired by Regent Dunkel, will meet at approximately 11:30 a.m. Internal audit reports will be presented, as will the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics external audit report.
- Receiving reports from the institutional heads at the public universities and special schools.
- The annual graduation and retention report will be received by the Board. Across the Regent enterprise, 88 percent of students return for their second year, which is well above the national average. Our universities also rank well above the national average for public universities in four-, five- and six-year graduation rates. Additionally, the state of Iowa ranks first in the nation with 81.4 percent of students that start at a Regents university and earn a degree at one of our institutions or elsewhere.
- The Board will receive the annual residence system governance report, which provides university residence systems five-year plans (FY 2022-FY 2026), preliminary residence systems budgets for FY 2022, and proposed residence system rates for AY 2021-2022. The universities provide many different room and board options to students with varying rates based on style of accommodation and amenities. The proposed rate change from the current year for each university's most popular double residence hall room and meal plan are 2.69 percent at the University of Iowa, -1.14 percent at Iowa State University, and no increase at the University of Northern Iowa. This is a first reading of rates, with the Board being asked to approve rates in April.

If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Richards

cc: Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa

**Virtual Meeting of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa  
February 24, 2021**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

**10:30 a.m. – Board Convenes in Open Session (President Richards)**

1. Call to Order

**10:30 a.m. – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee (Regent Bates)**

1. Minutes of November 18, 2020 Committee Meeting
2. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Presentation

**11:30 a.m. – Audit and Compliance Committee (Regent Dunkel)**

1. Minutes of November 18, 2020 Committee Meeting
2. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Audit Report
3. Internal Audit Reports Issued

**Noon – Break for Lunch**

**1 p.m. – Board Convenes in Open Session (President Richards)**

2. Call to Order
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes of November 18, 2020 Board Meeting
  - b. Minutes of January 12, 2021 Board Meeting
  - c. Meeting of February 17, 2021 Property and Facilities Committee
  - d. Meeting of February 17, 2021 Academic Affairs Committee
  - e. Meeting of February 17, 2021 Investment and Finance Committee
  - f. Meeting of February 24, 2021 Audit and Compliance Committee
  - g. Meeting of February 24, 2021 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee
  - h. Personnel Appointments
  - i. Span of Control Report
  - j. Annual Human Resources Report
  - k. Annual Diversity Report
  - l. Semi-Annual Claims Activity Reports: July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
  - m. Proposed University Parking Rates for FY 2022
  - n. SUI Request for Honorary Degree
  - o. Advisory Group Recommendations
4. Board President Report

5. Free Speech Committee Recommendations
6. Reports from Institutional Heads
7. Residence System Governance Report
8. Graduation and Retention Report
9. Closed Session for Litigation

**3:30 p.m. – Anticipated Adjournment**