May 30, 2017

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

Dear Governor Reynolds:

This letter provides information about the meetings of the Board of Regents on June 6 in the Alumni Center at Iowa State University, and June 7-8 in the Commons at 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.

On Tuesday, June 6 beginning at 9:00 a.m., the Board will conduct annual evaluations of Interim President Allen, President Harreld, Superintendent Gettel, President Nook and Executive Director Donley. All individuals have requested, in accordance with the Iowa Code, their evaluations take place in closed session. Evaluations will take place in the Alumni Center at Iowa State.

On Wednesday, June 7, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Regent Boettger, will meet beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Slife Ballroom in the Commons at UNI. The committee will receive a faculty presentation on Iowa being a swing state in recent presidential elections (ASAC item 2).

The committee will also receive the annual student financial aid study. Financial aid, in the form of grants, loans and on-campus employment, is available to all eligible Regent university students. In 2015-16, the total amount of financial aid awarded to students at the public universities was approximately $1.03 billion, which is an increase of $2.9 million (+0.3%) from the prior year. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, the total amount of financial aid awarded to students at the public universities increased by $39.3 million (+4.0%). More detail is available in ASAC item 5.

The Investment and Finance Committee, chaired by Regent McKibben, will meet at 2:00 p.m. It will receive the Regents investment and cash management report for the first quarter, as well as consider approval of recommendations of revised investment policy from its investment advisor, Marquette Associates. The committee will also receive an update from each of the Regent institutions on their FY 2018 budgets. Final budgets will be presented at the August 2017 meeting.
The Property and Facilities Committee, chaired by Regent Dakovitch, will meet at 3:15 p.m. The committee will consider FY 2018 capital plans (P&F item 2). The plans include an overview of FY 2018 anticipated new capital improvement projects with budgets estimated to exceed $250,000.

The committee will consider the register of University of Iowa capital improvement business transactions (P&F item 3). The first project to consider requests permission to proceed with project planning for the conversion of the University of Iowa Field House swimming pool area into a fitness center. The pool is underutilized and there is a need for additional fitness center space on campus. The estimated project budget of $10-$12 million would be funded by treasurer’s temporary investment income and recreational services gifts and earnings.

The second project to consider requests permission to proceed with project planning for the renovation of two floors of the Linquist Center. This would provide renovated student academic resource areas and collaborative learning spaces. The estimated project budget of $7-$9 million would be funded by the College of Education gifts and earnings.

The third project to consider requests approval of schematic design, project description and budget to construct a new Museum of Art. Since the flood of 2008, access to the University’s art collection for students, teachers, scholars and the public has been limited. This new 45,000 square foot facility would consolidate and display the University of Iowa’s art collection and be built above the 500-year flood plain. Staff offices, conference rooms and visual arts classrooms would also be contained in the building. The project budget of $50 million would be funded by gifts and University of Iowa Facility Corporation Bonds.

The fourth project to consider requests approval of the schematic design, project description and budget for renovation of level 3 of the John Pappajohn Pavilion. This project allows for the relocation and future expansion of the Department of Radiology non-clinical staff who were displaced by the construction of a connector bridge to the Stead Family Children’s Hospital. The project budget of $4.19 million would be funded by the University of Iowa Hospitals building usage funds.

The committee will review the register of capital improvement transactions for Iowa State University (P&F item 4). The first project to consider requests approval of the schematic design, project description and budget for an addition to the Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Hospital. This addition would add 1,320 square feet of space that would provide a new radiation therapy space for pets with cancer. This $2.75 million project would be funded by university funds, Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds, and private giving.

The second project to consider requests approval of the schematic design, revised project description and budget for the remodeling of Sukup Hall. This project would provide a building addition to house an in-floor device that tests engine force, torque and power. The $2.2 million project would be funded by university funds and private giving.

The full Board will convene in open session at approximately 4:00 p.m. on June 7, and begin with the University Hospitals and Clinics Committee, chaired by Regent Bates. It will receive the operating and financial performance report, and an update on the search for the new Vice President of Medical Affairs/Dean of the Carver College of Medicine.

On Thursday, June 8 at 8:00 a.m., the Board will have breakfast with student leaders from the Regent institutions. The full Board will convene in open session at approximately 10 a.m. At that time, the Board will receive 30 minutes of public comment as part of a pilot program the Board has instituted.
The Board will have a second reading and be asked to considerer approval of tuition proposals for the 2017-18 academic year. A $216 increase to all undergraduate resident students is proposed from the rates previously approved in December 2016. Iowa State and Northern Iowa also propose the same $216 increase to all other student classifications with Iowa proposing a 3.8% increase to the other student classifications. The proposed tuition rates are expected to generate $25.67 million ($16.51M at SUI; $7.12M at ISU, $2.04M at UNI) in incremental revenue. Regent higher education appropriations for FY2018 are $30.33 million less than the original FY 2017 appropriated amounts.

Other agenda items for the Board include:

- Receiving an update from Dr. Luis Rico-Gutierrez, Dean of the Iowa State College of Design and Co-Chair of the ISU Presidential Search Committee, on the search for the next president at Iowa State University.
- Receiving a report from Dr. Robert Toutkoushian, a national expert on the economics of higher education, including tuition, state appropriations and student demand.
- Receiving a faculty presentation on the GeoInformatics Training, Research, Education and Extension center at the University of Northern Iowa.
- Receiving an update on campus activities from each of the institutional heads.
- Receiving bids for the sale and award of two recreational facility revenue refunding bonds for an estimated $41.2 million. Present value savings is estimated to total $3.41 million.

If we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Richards

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