

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Regent Legislative Program  
**Date:** April 12, 2004

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**Recommended Actions:**

1. Receive the monthly report on 2004 legislative session.
  2. Ratify the Board position on identified bills.
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**Executive Summary:**

**Session Timetable** The second funnel date, which provides cut off dates for committee consideration of non-budgetary bills, was March 26. The following information is current as of April 9.

Legislative leaders are planning to adjourn on April 15. An update of legislative actions will be provided upon conclusion of the session.

**Session Updates**

**Regent Appointment** On April 1, 2004, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Jenny Rokes as a member of the Board of Regents.

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**SF 2298 Omnibus Budget Bill** This is a comprehensive bill that provides most appropriations from the state's general fund for the operations of state government and other related matters. As passed by the Senate, sections pertaining to the Regents include:

- Educational and economic development operating appropriations to the Regents for FY 2005 total \$591.8 million which includes a 2% increase in appropriations for both special schools.
- Nullification of the state's work-study program.
- Change in funding for the real estate education program at UNI.
- Legislative authority for the Regent bonding package of \$120 million.
- Additional language regarding the Indigent Patient Care Program at SUI and the related issues with the Department of Human Services.

Numerous amendments have been filed in the House. An update of specific actions affecting the Regents will be provided upon passage of the bill.

Board Position: Actively Monitor

Status: Passed the Senate March 30, 2004,  
 Debated by the House April 12, 2004

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SJR 2010  
Taxpayers Rights  
Amendment

This bill proposes a State constitutional amendment that requires approval by vote of the people before certain tax or fee increases take effect. As drafted, the bill appears to only apply to state-enacted or local government-enacted legislation for increases to taxes and fees.

Board Position: Monitor

Status: Passed the Senate 3/30/04, House committee report recommended passage 4/2/04

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HF 2418  
Tuition Timing

This bill changes the date for final Board of Regent action on setting tuition and mandatory fees from November to March.

Attempts to further amend the bill to completely remove the statutory deadline are ongoing.

Board Position: Support

Status: Passed House 3/9/04, 97 – 0; on Senate calendar

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SF 2174  
Appointment of  
Student Regent

This legislation changes statutory language regarding the student member of the Board of Regents.

- While the student Regent would still be appointed for a six-year term, the bill would disallow the student from serving on the Board for more than one year after the student is no longer enrolled in a Regent university.
- For future appointments, it would require the Governor to consult with the student government at the institution from which the proposed student appointee is enrolled prior to appointment.

Board Position: Monitor

Status: Signed by Governor 4/8/04

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SF 2202  
Meningitis  
Immunization

This bill requires institutions of higher education with on campus housing to provide students with meningococcal disease vaccination information in student health forms. It does not require the institutions to provide vaccinations against meningococcal disease. The Iowa department of public health is directed to adopt rules to administer the new Code section and review the requirements every five years.

Status: Signed by Governor 4/2/04

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HF 2570/  
Sale of the ICN

This bill provides for the sale of some of the assets of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

The Regent institutions currently are mandated by Iowa Code to utilize the ICN as the telecommunications provider for voice, data, and video services.

Numerous attempts have been made on behalf of the Regents to modify the language of this bill consistent with the Board's direction to remove the mandated requirement.

Recommended Regent position: Monitor

Status: On House Calendar : Assigned to Senate Government Oversight Subcommittee

SF 2294/HF 2548  
Preference for  
Iowa Vendors

These bills mandate many restrictive practices for purchases and contracts for purchases of software and information technology goods or services, regardless of the existence of any master contracts. It also limited software and technology goods contracts to two years in duration and mandated that those contracts are not renewable.

An amendment was made to both bills that granted authority to the Board of Regents to adopt rules that establish policies for fully competitive purchasing systems that serve the best interests of the state, the board and its institutions in accordance with best practices. The Board policies would not be subject to the restrictive practices outlined in the bill.

Since these bills originated from the Oversight Committee, they are not subject to the funnel.

Recommended Regent position: Monitor

Status: On Senate and House calendars

SCR 111/  
HCR 115  
MHEC Study

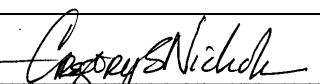
These resolutions propose an interim legislative study on the costs and benefits of Iowa joining the Midwestern Higher Education Commission (MHEC), a multi-state compact. Regent representatives and state officials have discussed with MHEC about potential participation by Iowa.

The Board Office recommends the Regents take a supportive role in such conversations. Should Iowa join the compact, the Regents could participate in the group and provide leadership for the state's involvement with MHEC.

Recommended Regent position: Support

Status: Senate Resolution adopted 3/9/04, House Resolution pending

  
Pamela M. Elliott

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols