

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

University of Iowa  
Iowa State University  
University of Northern Iowa  
Iowa School for the Deaf  
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School  
Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center  
Quad-Cities Graduate Center  
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center  
Tri-State Graduate Center



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December 2, 2011

Contact: Robert Donley, Executive Director, 515-281-3934

Preview of Board of Regents Meeting, December 8, 2011

At its meeting on Thursday, December 8, the Board of Regents will consider approval of a proposed increase of 3.75% in resident undergraduate tuition. If approved, this would be the lowest average tuition increase since FY 1997 (with the exception of the FY 2009 increase of 3.2%).

Iowa's Public Universities remain a great value as their tuition and fees are lower than most of their peer universities. Iowa has consistently kept tuition and fees at a lower increase than the national average during the recent economic downturn. According to the *College Board*, FY 2012 resident tuition and fees at four year public universities rose 8.3% while Iowa's public universities rose only 5.5%.

Tuition and fees do not cover the full cost of instruction at Iowa's Public Universities. The proposed tuition increase would provide funding to cover the projected rate of inflation only and is not intended to make up for any loss of state funds. While the fall 2011 enrollment growth of 1,240 students brought new revenues to the universities, this growth leads to additional stresses on reduced resources to meet the needs of these students.

In addition, the Board will also consider approval of the universities' professional development assignment (PDA) requests for FY 2013. These PDAs allow faculty members to engage in specific activities related to their fields of study, for a concentrated period of time, for the purpose of staying current in their fields and enhancing the academic quality and excellence that Iowa expects.

Each PDA request identifies specific benefits, for the university, students, state, and area of discipline, that are expected to result. These benefits typically include curriculum development, advances in the discipline, collaborations with other professionals and universities, and funded projects.

PDA's provide a positive return on the universities' investment. FY 2011 external funding (reported to date) to faculty members on PDA's was more than \$5.4 million. For FY 2013, the total replacement costs to accommodate the requested PDA's will be \$508,632. The universities carefully monitor these costs to ensure the cost effectiveness of the programs.

The 111 PDA's proposed for FY 2013 represent 1.5% of the faculty at Iowa's Public Universities. This is consistent with Iowa law that limits the number of PDA's to no more than 3% of the total faculty.

The Board will also consider revisions to Chapter 6 of the Board of Regents Policy Manual which addresses the approval of centers and institutes. The proposed changes would require Board approval of all centers and institutes, as well as honorary names, at Iowa's Public Universities, including the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, regardless of the level of funding associated with the center or institute.

The revised Chapter 6 further outlines the categories of persons and entities who are eligible or ineligible for naming, and specifically prohibits the naming of a center or institute for an elected official until that individual is no longer in office. The latter proposed change responds to concerns expressed by the legislature with the naming of centers and institutes.

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