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Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

## President Miles' Statement on House Study Bill 84 Relating to Sale of Pollock Painting

The proposal in House Study Bill 84 to force the Board of Regents to sell the Jackson Pollock painting, "Mural", is a profoundly bad idea – one that was examined by the Iowa Board of Regents in 2008 and determined to be not in the best interests of the University of Iowa or the state.

It has taken decades for the University of Iowa to build an enviable art collection and outstanding art education programs. A forced sale of this painting by the Iowa Legislature would break trust with all who have contributed to the arts at the UI over the years, would chill any future donations, and may well lead to litigation with the family that donated "Mural" to the University of Iowa in the first place. If HSB 84 simply created a scholarship fund for Iowa students majoring in art, it would have my full support. Within the context of HSB 84, however, the scholarship proposal is a fig leaf obscuring the irreparable damage this action would cause to art education at the University of Iowa. Crippling an outstanding program in order to provide scholarships for that very same program doesn't make sense and is a trade-off Iowans should reject.

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