

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Report on Legislative Session
Date: February 12, 2001

Recommended Action:

Receive report on the 2001 Legislative Session, and by general consent, the recommendations of Board positions on proposed legislation.

Executive Summary:

Regent budget presentations were made to the Education Appropriations Joint Subcommittee on the following dates:

- January 31: President Newlin, Executive Director Stork, Superintendent Johnson and Superintendent Thurman
- February 1: President Coleman, President Seagrave, and President Koob

The Governor's recommendations for FY 2002 operating appropriations for the Regent institutions include:

- Support of the Board's efforts to offer excellence in higher education at an affordable cost by allocating salary adjustment dollars to increase compensation for faculty and staff whose positions are supported by the state operating general fund or by tuition dollars.
- \$3 million in new state funding for the continued support of the Plant Sciences initiative at Iowa State University.

The Governor's recommendations regarding FY 2002 capital funding for the Regent institutions include bonding authority for the following:

University of Iowa	
Art Building, Phase 1	\$16.0 million
Iowa State University	
College of Business Building	\$10.9 million
University of Northern Iowa	
Steam Distribution Project	<u>\$12.7 million</u>
Total	\$39.6 million

President Newlin and the institutional heads are scheduled to make presentations to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee on February 15. Each will discuss the top institutional capital project for which state appropriations are requested. Also on February 15, UNI is presenting a report to the Oversight and Communications Subcommittee on the 21st Century Learning Infrastructure program.

The legislative timetable establishes two dates for completion of most committee work (except, e.g., appropriations and ways and means bills): March 16 is the final date for House bills to be reported out of House committees and Senate bills out of Senate committees; April 6 is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees.

The Board Office and the institutions track all bills that may have an impact on the Regent institutions. Several bills of particular interest for the Board include:

HF 1 – Utility Tax Cut.

This bill deletes the sales tax on the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas to provide energy for residential customers and applies to utility billings during March and April 2001. It also phases in a reduction in the sales tax rate of metered gas and electricity used to provide energy to residential customers as follows: calendar year 2002 at 4%, 2003 at 3%, 2003 at 2%, 2004 at 1%, and 2005 at 0%. Once fully implemented, this bill reduces state revenues by \$88 million.

The Governor signed this bill into law on Monday, February 5.

SF 65 – Supplemental Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Program.

This bill provides additional state funding to help eligible households meet home energy costs. The additional funding is provided by transferring unencumbered or unobligated funds from the state's innovations fund and the groundwater protection fund. Several Regent programs receive funds through the groundwater protection fund: the University of Iowa's Hygienic Laboratory and Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC), Iowa State University's Leopold Center, and the University of Northern Iowa's Waste Reduction Center. The financial impact of the bill on these programs is uncertain.

The Governor signed this bill into law on Tuesday, February 6.

HSB 31 – Financial Records – Foundations.

This study bill provides that financial records of foundations, which are established by or pursuant to statute for the support of the Board of Regents, Department of Education, community colleges, and the Iowa State Fair Board, be considered public records. On Wednesday, February 7, the assigned subcommittee of the State Government Committee heard testimony from representatives of the foundations affiliated with the Regent institutions as well as from the Iowa newspaper association.

The subcommittee voted not to pursue the proposed legislation.

HF 58 – Decentralization of the Indigent Patient Care Program.

This bill provides that the statewide indigent patient care currently provided by the UIHC may be provided at licensed hospitals other than the UIHC. The bill also requires, as a condition of receiving the state appropriation for the program, that the UIHC is to contract with Broadlawns medical center to provide treatment to indigent patients.

This bill was sponsored by Representative Grundberg and has been assigned to a subcommittee of the House Human Resources Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **oppose** this legislation.

SF 44 – Birth Injury Prevention Research and Education Program and SF 49 – Brachial Plexus Injury Consultation Program.

These bills require the UIHC to establish the identified programs. SF 44 contains an appropriation of \$300,000 for the Birth Injury Prevention Program. SF 49 contains no funding provision.

SF 44 was sponsored by Senator Rehberg and has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. SF 49 was sponsored by Senators Rehberg, Boettger, Schuerer, and Veenstra and has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Human Resources Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** these bills.

SSB 1108/HSB 134 – College Sexual Offense Reporting and HSB 86 – Deletion of State Criminal Statistics Reporting Requirements.

SSB 1108 and HSB 134 require any postsecondary institution to prescribe and publicize policies relating to sexual offenses on campus. HSB 86 deletes the state laws that currently require accredited postsecondary institutions in Iowa to file federal reports about criminal statistics with the state Department of Human Rights.

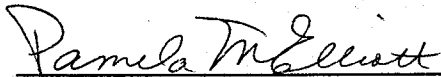
The bills have been assigned to subcommittees in the Senate and House Judiciary Committees.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** these bills.

HF 199 – Requirements for Agency Contracts: Consulting And Legal Services

This bill, sponsored by Representative Millage, provides requirements for an itemized statement for certain services provided to state agencies. The bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of the State Government Committee.

The recommended Regent position is to **monitor** this bill.



Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: 

Frank J. Sterk