

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Report on Legislative Session
Date: January 31, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive report on the 2000 Legislative Session, and by general consent, the recommendations of Board positions on proposed legislation.

Executive Summary:

The Governor's FY 2001 budget recommendations, as outlined to the Board in January, are now under consideration in various legislative committees and subcommittees. A listing of the recommendations is included on page 5.

The Education Appropriations Joint Subcommittee has scheduled budget presentations for the Board and Regent institutions as follows:

February 1 - 2: Board Office, Executive Director Stork and Director Elliott.

February 3: Iowa State University, President Jischke.

February 8: University of Northern Iowa, President Koob.

February 15: University of Iowa, President Coleman.

February 16: Superintendents Johnson and Thurman.

Full funding of salaries from state appropriations is the top budget priority of the Board. As reported in January, the Governor's initial recommendation in this area would not provide this level of state funding. Board and institutional officials will continue to seek needed funding for this FY 2001 priority as well as other budget priorities approved by the Board.

The FY 2000 appropriations reduction bill has been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Regent's share of the \$30 million reduction is \$3.4 million. Details of institutional and Board Office reductions are included in docket memorandum G.D. 9 this month.

The Board Office and the legislative liaisons track all bills which may have an impact on the Regent institutions. The status of the high priority bills are described in this memorandum. A copy of the 2000 legislative session timetable is set forth on page 6. Several bills of particular interest for the Board include:

HF 2036 – Prohibit Alcohol in Undergraduate Dormitories

This bill establishes a prohibition on the possession or consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in an undergraduate dormitory or a private or public post-secondary educational institution. The State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of Regents are directed to adopt policies to monitor the enforcement of this prohibition. The policies are to include a clear statement of sanctions to be imposed for failure to enforce the prohibition.

The College Student Aid Commission is also directed to establish sanctions for accredited private institutions that fail to enforce the prohibition on the possession or consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in their undergraduate dormitories. The sanctions may include the denial of participation in tuition grant or other state financial aid programs by an accredited private institution

Sponsor: Thomson, Boal, Davis, Dix, Lord, and Johnson

Current Status: Judiciary, Referred to Subcommittee,
Thomson, Raecker, and Shoultz

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2045 – Task Force Review Immunization Requirements of College Students

This bill directs the Director of Public Health to establish a task force to review and recommend appropriate immunizations for postsecondary education students. The task force membership is to include representatives of the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Education, postsecondary education students, and others with interest or expertise in the areas of public health or education. The task force is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2000.

Sponsor: Alons

Current Status: Human Resources, Referred to Subcommittee,
Blodgett, Hahn and Witt.

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2079 – Bona Fide Retirement Under IPERS / Reemployment Earning Limitations for Teachers

This bill makes changes governing what constitutes a bona fide retirement for purposes of receiving an IPERS retirement benefit and also further modifies provisions governing eligibility for retirement benefits for certain teachers employed in a teaching discipline shortage area as designated by the Director of the Department of Education.

The bill eliminates the limit on reemployment wages for a retired member of IPERS who is reemployed as a teacher in a teaching discipline shortage area. Current law provides for a reduction in retirement benefits if reemployment wages exceed \$12,000.

Sponsor: Carroll

Current Status: Referred to State Government Committee

Regent Position: Recommend Monitor

HF 2083 – Permanent Substitute Teacher Licensure

This bill provides that contract negotiations for teacher wages shall not provide for a single salary teacher pay schedule. It directs the Board of Educational Examiners to adopt rules relating to the issuance of a permanent substitute teacher license for retired teachers who have successfully completed an approved practitioner preparation program and received a master's degree or a professional degree beyond the baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with an approved practitioner preparation program.

To qualify for the permanent license, a teacher must also have taught successfully for a 20-year period, which is to be certified in writing to the Board by the Superintendent of the school district, or the authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school, which employed the teacher during the teacher's 20 years of successful teaching.

Sponsor: Brunkhorst

Current Status: Referred to Education Committee

Regent Position: Recommend Monitor

HSB 539 – Certification and Licensing of Para-educators and Practitioners

This bill broadens the authority of the Board of Educational Examiners and provides for the certification, rather than licensing, of a para-educator.

Sponsor: Brunkhorst, Sunderbruch, and Mascher
(Proposed Department of Education / Board of Educational Examiners Bill)

Current Status: Referred to Education Committee

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

SF 2037 – State Board of Educational Examiners Develop Code of Professional Rights

This bill rewrites a code provision that directs the State Board of Education to develop a professional code that, at a minimum, addresses the habitual failure of a practitioner to fulfill the practitioner's contractual obligations to a school district. The bill strikes the word "habitual" from the requirement. As used in the provision, "practitioner" refers to an administrator, teacher, or other licensed professional who provides educational assistance to students.

Sponsor: Boettger

Current Status: Education, Referred to Subcommittee,
Boettger, Dvorsky, and Redwine

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

Federal Spending for Higher Education

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress officially convened for the second session of the 106th Congress on January 24, 2000. Members will once again take up the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). A number of the proposed provisions of the ESEA impact the special schools and the teacher education programs at the universities so this may be important legislation for the Regent institutions.

The President's State of the Union address was given on January 27. The address included several new initiatives, including a \$138 billion, 10-year program to expand health coverage and a proposal for making postsecondary tuition tax deductible.

The Governor's recommendations for FY 2001 operating appropriations for the Regent institutions, excluding salary funding, include the following:

University of Iowa	
Public Health Initiative	\$1,700,000
Opening New Buildings	<u>237,000</u>
Subtotal	1,937,000
Iowa State University	
Plant Sciences	2,470,000
Opening New Buildings	<u>415,000</u>
Subtotal	2,885,000
University of Northern Iowa	
Master's in Social Work	300,000
Opening New Buildings	<u>48,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>348,000</u>
Total	\$5,170,000

The Governor's recommendations regarding FY 2001 capital funding for the Regent institutions includes bonding authority for the following:

	<u>Project Costs</u>
University of Iowa	
Biological Sciences Buildings Renovations	\$14,700,000
Iowa State University	
Plant Sciences Equipment & Technology	2,530,000
Gillman Hall Systems Upgrade	<u>11,000,000</u>
Subtotal	13,530,000
University of Northern Iowa	
McCollum Science Hall Addition	<u>16,900,000</u>
Total	\$45,130,000

The Governor's budget recommendations also calls for a deappropriation of the capital funding approved during the 1997 session of the General Assembly. During the 1997 session, \$77.4 million was appropriated from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund for Regent capital projects for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2001. The specific appropriation to the Regents for FY 2001 was \$11.9 million. The Governor's recommendation that provides for the deappropriation of the FY 2001 funds includes the selling of Academic Building Revenue Bonds to replace the capital appropriations. The projects and amounts for FY 2001 are as follows:

<u>Inst.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SUI	Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facilities	\$2,622,000
ISU	Engineering Teaching & Research, Phase II	6,787,000
UNI	Lang Hall Renovation	<u>2,506,000</u>
	Total	\$11,915,000

Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: _____
Frank J. Stork

