
From: Donley, Robert [BOARD]

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:49 AM

To: 'Jack Evans'; 'Michael Gartner'; 'ruth.harkin@cox.net'; 'Bob Downer'; 'Bonnie Campbell'; 'rav118@mchsi.com'; 'Greta Johnson'; Craig Lang (craiglangbor@ifbf.org)

Cc: 'Dave Miles'

Subject: FW: Copy of Pres. David Miles Remarks

Dear Board Members:

Attached please find a copy of President Miles remarks for the "Stop the Cuts Student Rally" today at the capitol at 2:00 p.m. The remarks will be posted on our website at 2:00 pm today.

Regards,

Bob

David W. Miles

Remarks for Stop the Cuts Student Rally

Student Day at the Capitol

March 7, 2011

[You will be introduced by Lyndsay Harshman, president, UI graduate student government]

Thank you Lyndsay, and thanks to each student who shared their personal stories with us today.

And, thanks to all of you – students of the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State and the University of Iowa – who have traveled to Iowa’s Capitol to visit with our elected officials about the importance of consistent, reliable funding for Iowa’s Public Universities!

What a tremendous turnout! Give yourselves a hand!

I would like to introduce and thank my fellow Regent(s), and university administrators, who have joined us for this event.

- President Pro Tem of the Board, Regent Jack Evans of Cedar Rapids
- Regent Greta Johnson of LeMars, who is a graduate of ISU and currently a graduate student at UNI
- From the University of Iowa, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Barry Butler
- From Iowa State University, President Greg Geoffroy
- From the University of Northern Iowa, Interim President Gloria Gibson

Before I speak further on the concerns expressed by our students, I would like to take a moment to thank our state elected officials on both sides of the aisle, each of whom care about Iowa’s Public Universities and the importance of investing in public higher education. We may disagree over the right steps to take, but no one should mistake healthy disagreement for lack of commitment to our institutions or to Iowa. Whatever your views, we greatly appreciate the time you have made today to listen to our students and their concerns.

Today is all about you, our outstanding students, and I thank you for expressing your enthusiasm, your support, and also your concern. As you have shared with legislators and others joining us today, it is clear that you are motivated by a true concern for your education, your universities, and your future.

It is important for everyone here to realize that as beneficiaries of a world-class education from Iowa's Public Universities, the students here today, and those back on our campuses, represent future doctors, lawyers, teachers, artists, veterinarians, engineers, writers, dentists, entrepreneurs, researchers and other professions critical to our state. In short, these students are the future of Iowa.

We have gathered here today because, while Iowans' support for their universities remains strong, the same cannot be said for the state's investment in public higher education. As recently as 1981, fully 77 cents of every dollar for educating students at our universities came from Iowans through state appropriations.

Since then, things have changed dramatically. By 2001, only 64 cents of the universities' education budgets came from the state. The downward slide accelerated during the financial crisis. In the last two years alone, state appropriations to Iowa's Public Universities plummeted \$141 million, or 20 percent, a cut greater than all but 2 other states.

These disproportionate cuts are unfair and put our students at risk. Since 2001, funding for all other areas of state government has *grown* 28 percent, while appropriations to Iowa's Public Universities and Special Schools have been *cut* 24 percent. Today the state's contribution to educating Iowa students has fallen to 39 cents of every dollar.

As Iowa's economy is beginning to recover, we now have the opportunity for the state to reinvest in our universities, relieve pressure on student tuition, and protect the outstanding educational quality built over many generations.

Sadly, as we meet here today, we face the prospect of yet more reductions in state appropriations. It is time to change course before the damage to quality and affordability become irreversible.

The detrimental impact of the budget cuts is directly measurable, as you have heard today, through fewer academic programs, larger classes, more crowded laboratories, fewer elective choices, and fewer faculty teaching more students. The cuts have been so significant that these impacts to quality have been unavoidable, despite significant efficiency and cost-saving efforts at Iowa's Public Universities, which will result in \$175 million in savings over the next five years from 900 early retirements, and an additional \$25 million in savings from faculty reductions, position eliminations, employee furloughs, and benefit changes. Our universities have reduced faculty by 4.4 percent (despite a 4.9 percent increase in students), administrators by 8.2 percent and general service staff by 21.6 percent since 2009.

Even as quality is challenged, the unfortunate reality is that as the state withdraws support for our universities, the financial burden falls increasingly on students and their families.

With each new round of funding reductions, the universities and the Board of Regents comb back over the universities' operations to find new efficiencies and ways to become more productive. But with the cuts coming fast and furious over the last 4 years, at some point, we can no longer do more with less. At this point each new round of cuts presents the Board of Regents with an ever more difficult dilemma. Increase tuition too little and lower our quality standards; or, increase too much and put our universities out of reach for average Iowans.

Some would have you believe that with every cut in state funding the Board of Regents simply increases tuition to compensate. That's not true. For many years, our tuition rates have grown less than the national average, and tuition increases have offset less than 25 percent of state appropriation cuts over the last two years.

The Board has worked hard to protect students from the full brunt of cuts in state funding, but it is getting harder. Restoring total funding to levels of just two years ago would require a 47 percent increase in tuition. 47%!!

That is something we simply will not do.

So, after years of doing more with less, after too many tuition increases

that have been too high, and with a brighter outlook for the Iowa economy, we ask ourselves, is now the time for the state to cut support for Iowa's Public Universities even further, or is it time to turn the tide and reinvest in our universities, relieve pressure on student tuition, and further protect outstanding educational quality.

And for me, the answer is clear; it is time to stop the cuts!

The irony of even considering further cuts is that Iowa's Public Universities have never been more important to our state's future. Through the education of successive generations of students, no other institutions do more to grow Iowa's population, create good-paying, knowledge-economy jobs, support Iowa industry, increase family incomes, and improve quality of life. Our universities are critical to filling the projected 319,000 college-level jobs Iowa needs by 2018, and which I hope many of our students here will fill.

Further, the collective economic impact of our universities is unparalleled, reaching \$8 billion annually. They *return* \$14.50 in increased economic activity in Iowa for every state dollar invested, and they attract more in research grants each year (\$619 million) than they receive in state funding (\$552 million).

With these strong, positive results, supporting Iowa's Public Universities is an investment the state can't afford *not* to make.

For all of the reasons provided today, particularly by and for the benefit of our students, we must end the cuts in state appropriations to Iowa's Public Universities. Now is the time to protect the hard-won quality of our institutions, ensure affordability and access for all Iowans, and sustain these outstanding institutions to serve future generations of Iowans in the same way that they have served us.

It is time to stop the cuts!

Thank you inviting me to join you today. And, thank you for your tremendous support of Iowa's Public Universities! You make us proud!