

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Regent Legislative Program
Date: January 5, 2004

Recommended Action:

Receive an update on legislative-related information.

Executive Summary:

Legislative Session	<p>The 2004 Session of the General Assembly is scheduled to convene on Monday, January 12, 2004. The Governor's Condition of the State address is currently planned for Tuesday, January 13, 2004. An oral report will be provided to the Board regarding the Governor's address.</p> <p>The Governor is expected to announce his budget recommendations for the state by the end of January.</p>
Budget Hearings	<p>In December, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor held a series of seven hearings across the state to discuss the FY 2005 state budget. The hearings provided a venue for the public to provide input on the state's FY 2005 budget.</p> <p>Regent members and representatives were present at each meeting and offered encouraging remarks that the state financially support the Regent institutions.</p>
Presentations	<p>The Executive Director appeared before the Legislative Fiscal Committee on December 17, 2003, and presented a briefing on the impact of the 2.5% across-the-board reduction for Regent institutions.</p>
Presidential Caucuses	<p>The Iowa Presidential caucuses are scheduled for Monday, January 19. It is anticipated that the General Assembly will not be in session on that day due to the caucuses.</p> <p>The College Student Aid Commission has compiled a listing of higher education issues for each of the presidential candidates. The Commission information is available from the Board Office.</p>

Background and Analysis:

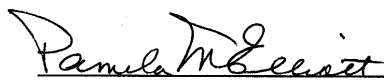
Prior Board Action In September 2003, the Board approved appropriations requests for FY 2005 operations, incremental salaries, tuition replacement and capitals.

At its November 2003 meeting, the Board authorized Board staff and legislative liaisons to:

- Actively pursue regulatory relief of burdensome, costly, and/or obsolete statutory requirements.
- Explore opportunities for alternative financing methods and additional funding through other legislative means and other state agencies.

At its December 2003 meeting, the Board:

- Added a legislative priority that the Regents support the state in making public education its top funding priority and that the state not making further reductions in appropriations to public education, including the Regent institutions.
- Authorized Board staff and legislative liaisons to actively pursue state financing methods, other than direct capital appropriations, for critical safety and academic capital projects.
- Reaffirmed the earlier Regent legislative program issues and budget recommendations and added that the Regents supported efforts to change the statutory timing requirement for setting tuition at the state universities.
- Adopted a resolution to provide contingent direction to the institutions in planning for potential reductions in FY 2005 state operating appropriations.
- Adopted a resolution, as the Board of Trustees of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, that seeks budgetary, regulatory, and statutory relief to permit the Indigent Patient Care Program to continue to provide high-quality care to lowans, while simultaneously enhancing the health and medical education programs at the University of Iowa. (See Attachment A.)


Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

Board of Trustees Resolution, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

WHEREAS the Indigent Patient Care Program provides access to high-quality health care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for Iowans who otherwise might not have access to care;

WHEREAS patients referred to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics via the Indigent Patient Care Program have access to comprehensive services at a single location;

WHEREAS the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine provide all patients with a single standard of high-quality care;

WHEREAS counties are protected from health care costs by being able to refer patients to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics at no cost to the counties or the patients;

WHEREAS the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and other University of Iowa health science programs benefit from having the Indigent Patient Care Program population available for academic purposes;

WHEREAS the physicians at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine provide care to Indigent Patient Care Program patients without charge;

WHEREAS the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is able to leverage federal dollars to reduce the cost of the Indigent Patient Care Program to the state;

WHEREAS state appropriations for the program have consistently and increasingly been less than the costs of operation;

WHEREAS state institutions, including the Iowa Department of Corrections, are permitted to refer an unlimited number of patients to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics without cost, and the number of such patients and the cost of these patients to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine have been dramatically increasing;

WHEREAS increases in costs and decreases in state support have made providing benefits of the Indigent Patient Care Program more challenging, and the projected gap between state revenues and projected expenditures threatens further reductions in state support for the program;

THEREFORE;

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Board of Trustees, exercising its governance authority:

Expresses its intent to seek budgetary, regulatory, and statutory relief necessary to permit the Indigent Patient Care Program to continue to provide high-quality care to Iowans, while simultaneously enhancing the health and medical education programs at the University of Iowa.