

From: Doyle, Sheila [BOARD]

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 2:46 PM

To: Mason, Sally; Geoffroy, Gregory L [PRES]; Ben Allen (Ben.allen@uni.edu); 'Jeanne Prickett'; 'pclancy@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us'; Bonnie Campbell; Craig Lang; David Miles; Downer, Robert; Gartner, Michael; Harkin, Ruth; Jack Evans; Johnson, Greta A; Rose Vasquez

Cc: Donley, Robert [BOARD]; Baumert, Andy [GOV R]; Berg, Brad [BOARD]; Brunson, Marcia R [BOARD]; Clayton, Aimee [BOARD]; Cook, Timothy B [BOARD]; Evans, Thomas A [BOARD]; Gonzalez, Diana [BOARD]; Murphy, Joseph D [BOARD]; Racki, Joan [BOARD]; Saunders, Keith [BOARD]; Sayre, Patrice [BOARD]

Subject: Letter from President Miles on Governor's Performance Reviews



dwm govt
efficiency.doc



Governor's Letter
on Governmen...

Sheila Doyle
Regent Communication Officer
Board of Regents, State of Iowa
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 281-3332



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

August 17, 2009

Dear Director:

We are writing to bring you up to date with our joint plans to develop recommendations to make Iowa state government more efficient.

We have been looking at how to improve the operations of state government. In his budget guidance, the Governor directed departments to develop proposals to reduce the FY 2011 General Fund budget by 3 to 5 percent. Additionally, the Governor has enlisted a consulting firm Public Works LLC to develop certain best practices and other efficiencies for state government. Finally, the Legislative Council this past session appointed the Interim Study Commission on State Government Reorganization to review state government operations.

We cannot accomplish any improvement to the structure and process of state government without the effective support and assistance from every department and agency. For this effort to succeed, we need your help and full cooperation.

Over the next six months, representatives from the Governor's Office, the Department of Management, Public Works LLC, the House and Senate Caucus staff, and the Legislative Services Agency will be contacting you about your processes and organization. We ask that you respond to these requests for information in a timely manner and actively participate in this process.

In addition to the two meetings that the Legislative Interim Study Commission will be holding beginning in September, the Governor's Office will hold several public forums or meetings on this matter throughout the state this fall. You may be asked to appear at these events and are certainly welcome to attend.

Thank you again for your cooperation and assistance and for your continued desire to make Iowa state government better.

Sincerely,

Governor Chet Culver

Lt. Governor Patty Judge

Senator Staci Appel
Co-Chair, Legislative State Government
Reorganization Commission

Representative Mary Mascher
Co-Chair, Legislative State Government
Reorganization Commission



**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



David W. Miles, President, *West Des Moines*
Jack B. Evans, Pro Tem, *Cedar Rapids*
Bonnie J. Campbell, *Des Moines*
Robert N. Downer, *Iowa City*
Michael G. Gartner, *Des Moines*
Ruth R. Harkin, *Cumming*
Greta A. Johnson, *Le Mars*
Craig A. Lang, *Brooklyn*
Rose A. Vasquez, *Des Moines*

Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

August 28, 2009

Fellow Regents and Institutional Heads:

Governor Culver recently announced to all Executive Branch agencies his plans to undertake performance and efficiency reviews focused on improving the operations of State government. The Governor has enlisted a consulting firm, Public Works, LLC, based in Pennsylvania, to identify and develop certain best practices and other efficiencies that can be implemented for improved operations. The results of the performance reviews are expected to: 1) build on the budget savings mandated in the current fiscal year budget; 2) assist in assessing the fullest use of State appropriations; and 3) illustrate State government's dedication to cost savings, particularly in difficult economic times.

The Board of Regents will have the opportunity to support the Governor's efforts in these reviews. As Board president, I believe the performance reviews will generate additional opportunities for innovation, and improve the delivery of our public services, thereby increasing our accountability to the citizens of Iowa.

In recent years, Iowa's public universities and special schools have conducted a number of internal and external reviews of their academic and administrative programs. As a result, the institutions maintain frequent interinstitutional collaborations and activities that expand the scope and improve the quality of their teaching and research missions. They also share best practices in several key administrative areas such as purchasing and technology. Each efficiency review undertaken at our institutions brings new information, recommends improvements, and confirms that Iowa's public universities and special schools are engaged in identifying and following best practices. I have every expectation that the upcoming performance reviews will confirm the strength of our ongoing efforts to achieve the best value in the use of taxpayer dollars.

With respect to Public Works, LLC, its president, Eric Schnurer, founded the company in 1995. Mr. Schnurer formerly worked as an aide to several governors and U.S. Senators, and as a policy advisor or speechwriter for nearly a dozen presidential candidates. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Schnurer, along with Regent Bonnie Campbell, Interim Department of Management Director Dick Oshlo (who is overseeing the performance reviews), and Board Office staff Andy Baumert and Patrice Sayre. Public Works will secure the involvement of Regent staff using site reviews, focus groups, and employee surveys.

Regents and Institutional Heads
August 28, 2009

The Governor expects a report from Public Works in preparation for his FY 2011 budget message to be delivered in January 2010. Therefore, it is important that the Regent institutions be prepared to fully participate in the performance reviews to aid in strategically reallocating limited resources. I know the Regent institutions will continue the difficult task of identifying efficiency improvements while ensuring the growth of our educational and research missions.

I have invited Dick Oshlo, Interim Director of the Department of Management, to more fully outline the performance reviews at the September 17 Board of Regents meeting in Council Bluffs. Respecting the fact that the Governor's efficiency reviews are just getting underway, we will defer reports from the Regent task forces on interinstitutional cooperation, and benefits, until a later time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Miles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

David W. Miles, President