

MEMORANDUM

To Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Regent Legislative Program
Date: November 5, 2001

Recommended Action:

Approve the proposals noted below for inclusion in the Board's legislative program for the 2002 session.

Executive Summary:

Gubernatorial Actions By Executive Order Number 24, Governor Tom Vilsack ordered a 4.3% across-the-board reduction, effective November 1. The reduction is expected to save the state approximately \$200 million.

The Governor also called a special session of the Iowa General Assembly to convene on Thursday, November 8, 2001, to restore funding to key priorities of public safety, public defense, and K-12 education. Pursuant to action of the Board at its October meeting, the Board will seek restoration of the reductions to the Iowa School for the Deaf and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

As a result of the appropriations reductions, the institutional FY 2002 budgets will need to be revised (see G.D. 11).

An update of the special session will be provided at the November Board meeting.

Regular Legislative Session Proposal Process The 2002 Session of the Iowa General Assembly is scheduled to convene on Monday, January 14, 2002. Prior to the legislative session, the institutions are to submit to the Board any matters, in addition to the state appropriations requests approved in September, which may be subject to legislative consideration. These matters become part of the Regent legislative program and will be updated on a monthly basis.

Prior to determining the formal appropriations recommendations, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, with assistance of department directors, is expected to again hold several budget hearings/town meetings at different sites around Iowa between November 13 and December 3. Each hearing is to focus on one key policy area of the leadership agenda of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor (accountable government, education, environment, health, new economy, and safe communities).

Special
Appropriations
Requests (UNI)

The University of Northern Iowa has requested Board approval to continue efforts to secure special appropriations for FY 2003 for UNI programs as identified in the following table.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Ag-Based Industrial Lubricants (ABIL) Program | \$400,000 |
| Community Recreation and Tourism Research & Service | 150,000 |
| Iowa Waste Reduction Center | Increase 10¢/ton |
| Environmental Audit Training Initiative | 220,000 |
| Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center: | |
| Materials Testing Service | 50,000 |
| Geography Alliance of Iowa | 250,000 |
| Iowa Mathematics & Science Coalition | 50,000 |
| 21 st Century Learning Initiative | 2,000,000 |

Background:

ABIL (Ag-Based
Industrial
Lubricants)

The ABIL program has been successful in introducing the first soybean-based hydraulic fluid licensed for marketing and has other products under development.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development has provided program funding for the past five years to support UNI staff, equipment, building rental, and other expenses related to the Waverly facility which houses the program.

The program successfully patented and introduced the nation's first soybean-based hydraulic fluid licensed for marketing in the United States (BioSOY™) and is creating national awareness of the value-added and environmental opportunities of using soybean-based lubricants.

Current year funding is \$258,500 and UNI is seeking an appropriation amount of \$400,000 to maintain and support personnel expertise, material utilization, publication expense, and additional equipment.

UNI requests Board approval to seek funding through the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Community
Recreation and
Tourism Research
and Service

In November 1999, the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services (HPELS) and the Institute for Decision Making (IDM) at UNI hosted the Governor's Summit on Promoting Livability of Iowa Communities. Recommendations for legislative action were developed at the conference. Since then, the Iowa 2010 Report has recommended similar actions.

UNI requests Board support for inclusion of its Program for Community Recreation and Tourism Research and Service, a collaborative effort between HPELS and IDM. UNI anticipates a budget of \$150,000.

The objectives of the program include enhancing the effective management of human resources within the leisure service field, providing information and design planning for communities and park and recreation agencies, conducting recreation resource assessments, conducting market studies, and assisting park and recreation agencies in conducting economic impact studies of recreation activities.

UNI requests Board approval to seek funding through the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

**Iowa Waste
Reduction Center**

The Iowa Waste Reduction Center was created by the Groundwater Protection Act and provides assistance to small businesses in the safe and economic management of hazardous waste. Funding is derived from fees collected by landfills.

The state has established a 50% waste reduction goal, which will decrease the volume of waste, thereby reducing the fees generated.

Decreases in revenues to the Center will impact service levels to small businesses where there is a growing need for "second step" waste reduction assistance, and will negatively affect the Center's ability to secure matching funds. To date, the Center has secured a match for every state dollar.

The University wants to again seek legislative relief through an increase in the allocation of fees to the Center equivalent to 10 cents/ton.

UNI requests Board approval for UNI to seek legislative relief for the Center during the development of the 2002 legislative program.

**Environmental
Audit Training
Initiative**

The Iowa Environmental Audit Privilege and Immunity Act of 1998 (HF 681) provides that owners or operators of facilities may conduct voluntary evaluations of their environment compliance status, and in return for reporting and correcting any violations, receive immunity from fines and prosecution.

The Act also stipulates that the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at UNI, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, shall create a training program for environmental auditing.

Funding to develop the environmental audit training program was appropriated by the General Assembly and made available through June 2001. This initial appropriation of \$220,000 provides for the development and testing of the training program.

After the training program is finalized, the remaining tasks include establishing the training program at selected community colleges, publicizing the training and the audit privilege law, and updating the training program. The tasks to be conducted in the next year will cost approximately \$50,000. UNI requests support seeking funding for this initiative through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center: Materials Testing Service

Recycle Iowa, a component of the Iowa Department of Economic Development, will be requesting support from the Governor and the General Assembly to fund a Materials Testing Service in conjunction with the Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center (RRTTC) and the Department of Industrial Technology at the University of Northern Iowa.

To expand the number of markets for recyclable materials, Recycle Iowa has developed a collaborative relationship with RRTTC for materials testing and for industrial by-product reutilization technical assistance to Iowa industries.

UNI requests Board approval to seek funding through the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Geography Alliance of Iowa

The Geographic Alliance of Iowa (GAI), housed at the University of Northern Iowa, was established in 1991 with the support of the National Geographic Society (NGS). From FY 1993 to FY 2001, the state of Iowa has matched the \$50,000 per year funding provided by the NGS.

The GAI is composed of K-12 teachers, college and university professors, personnel from a variety of other educational endeavors, and citizens, all of whom are concerned with improving geographic instruction in Iowa. Related to several national efforts, the overall goal of the GAI is to promote and enhance the understanding by Iowans of their place in an increasingly interdependent world by expanding their geographic knowledge. The GAI provides both pre-service and in-service programs to stimulate interest in teaching geography and its integration across the curriculum, improving the teaching of concepts and content of geography, and to assist in the development of quality teaching materials and the training of teachers to effectively use such material.

There are currently 2,100 members in the GAI, most of whom are practicing Iowa teachers. These members receive information from GAI routinely through newsletters and other notices. Approximately 170 teachers participated in the intensive 2000-01 winter and summer institutes, and have subsequently become GAI "teacher consultants" (TC's) and have provided dozens of workshops in their local districts. Through such activities, literally hundreds of teachers, and thus thousands of students, have benefited from GAI-supported activities each year.

In order to continue to offer intensive summer institutes, provide support and materials for the workshops offered by the TC's, and continue the outreach work that has reached so many Iowa teachers, the GAI must have a consistent source of state funding. However, legislation enacted by the 2001 General Assembly has led to an elimination of the funding for the GAI.

The University proposes a funding strategy for the GAI that would be for the state of Iowa to provide a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 to the GAI. This funding would be transferred to the National Geographic Foundation and would be matched by an additional \$250,000 from the National Geographic Society. The GAI would then have the ability to sustain its activities by utilizing the earnings of the endowment. This would eliminate the need of an annual state appropriation to the GAI.

**Iowa Mathematics
& Science
Coalition**

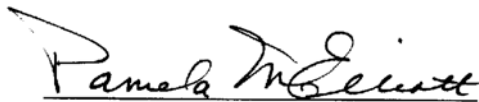
The Iowa Mathematics and Science Coalition (ISMC) housed at the University of Northern Iowa is an alliance of leaders from business and industry, education, and public policy that have worked together for the past ten years to reform mathematics and science education in the state of Iowa.

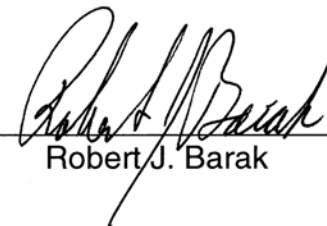
The Coalition has worked closely with the Iowa Department of Education in its efforts to improve curriculum and assessment in local school districts throughout Iowa. The IMSC is the only curriculum coalition in the state that actively supports the State's school improvement efforts. With a minimum of resources, the Coalition, in conjunction with local Area Education Agencies, has impacted over 160 school districts as they work to design and implement their School Improvement Plans. The Coalition also serves as a clearinghouse for mathematics and science materials and information for teachers and students as well as helping parents identify strengths to look for in their child's mathematics and science classroom.

The Coalition also serves as a professional development resource for teachers through its annual Governor's Institute on Mathematics and Science Reform. This institute and the resulting follow-up meetings have trained over 3,000 Iowa teachers to better teach students and to make mathematics and science education in the state the best in the nation. The Coalition also supports the Lt. Governor's Conference for Beginning Teaching. The conference brings together Iowa's beginning teachers, mentors, teacher educators, and administrators to focus on the unique needs of beginning teachers in mathematics and science.

**21st Century
Learning Initiative**

During the 2001 legislative session, the Technology Appropriations bill included a \$1.5 million allocation to the University of Northern Iowa for continued development of a 21st Century Learning Infrastructure Initiative. This Initiative began last year and focuses on providing an infrastructure for the delivery of digital content to the students and citizens of the State of Iowa. UNI will work closely with the State's Information Technology Department, the Department of Education, the ICN, and IPTV on further development this coming year.


Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: 
Robert J. Barak