

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Annual Report of the Regent Registrars and Admissions Officers Coordinating Committee (RRAO)

**Date:** October 8, 2001

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**Recommended Action:** Receive the Annual Report of the Regent Registrars and Admissions Officers Coordinating Committee (RRAO).

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**Executive Summary:** The report describes several actions taken by the RRAO, a committee comprised of the Regent university Registrars and Directors of Admission. The actions included expanding the annual study of persistence to include more academic performance data. The RRAO discussed changes that will need to be made relative to student identification numbers, i.e., using numbers other than social security numbers (SSN).

Action Taken

Goals for 2001-2002

The goals for 2001-2002 are:

1. Foster and support additional joint activities that demonstrate a unified Regent university presence and that enable resource efficiencies.
2. Continue to promote the expansion of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions among the Regent universities, Iowa community colleges, and K-12 school systems.
3. Continue to promote the value of completing a rigorous program of academic courses to middle school and high school students.
4. Address any issues referred to RRAO by either the Board of Regents or the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC).

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**Link to Strategic Plan:** The Committee's activities are consistent with the Board's Strategic Plan, especially Key Result Area 2.0.0.0, Access, and 4.0.0.0, Accountability. In particular, the work of the Committee can be tied to Objective 4.2.0.0, to improve the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the institutions.

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**Background:** According to the Board's *Procedural Guide*, the powers and duties of the Committee include:

- To consider multiple ways of coordinating student records.
- To review appeals on residency classifications for admission and fee purposes.

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**Analysis:** The work done by the RRAO directly relates to the concept of seamless education, espoused by the Regents, Iowa's Governor and legislative leaders, other educational agencies, and students and their families. The transitions from one level of schooling to another should be made as efficient as possible for learners. The goal of increasing access, however, cannot be paid with the price of a reduced quality of education. RRAO members support policies, practices, and research that will retain high standards in academic programs while enhancing the educational experience of students.

**Seamless Education**

**Persistence Study** RRAO members determined that the annual persistence study, i.e., the Annual Retention and Graduation Report, should be modified to include a survey of students who do not return for their second year in college. Additional tables will be added to the annual report that show persistence based on academic characteristics.

**Meetings** Noting that much inter-university communications are being done electronically, RRAO members decided to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings. That would result in some financial savings.

**Student Identification Numbers** RRAO discussed the issue of using other than social security numbers (SSN) as student identification numbers. ISU will implement changes in the use of SSNs beginning with the 2001 Fall Semester. SUI is reviewing the implications of such a change on their student systems. Currently, UNI makes use of a random six-digit student number.

**Discussion Topics** In addition to topics previously mentioned, the RRAO Committee also discussed the following topics during the 2000-2001 Academic Year:

- Racial/ethnic coding changes
- The "Your Courses Count" brochure (now being revised)
- Miscellaneous fees
- Iowa College Enrollment Report
- Regional Academies (a proposal from the Iowa Department of Education)
- Alternative high school curriculum report
- Joint admission policies and procedures
- Mailing of grade reports
- Computing and health fee assessment
- HEA 1998 compliance
- HF2437 notification to parents study
- Academic calendar options
- Freshman year report
- Joint recruitment efforts

- Acceptance of transfer credit
- Residency for tuition and fees policies and procedures

Regent  
Exhibit Book

The RRAO Annual Report is found in the Regent Exhibit Book.

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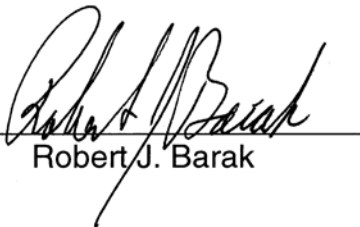
**Performance  
Indicators:**

This report does not relate directly to any of the Board's 43 performance indicators.

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Charles R. Kniker

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Robert J. Barak