

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Administrative Rules Review Process--Progress Report
Date: October 9, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive the report.

Executive Summary:

The Board Office is working with the university counsels to complete Activity Number Three (Inventory Submittal) of the Governor's Administrative Rules Revision Schedule. An electronic inventory of the Iowa Administrative Code, noting each place where the Regent institutions or their activities are mentioned, will be completed and submitted to the Governor's Office by the November 1, 2000 deadline. This will be accompanied by a similar inventory of the Iowa Code. By agreement with the special school superintendents, the Board Office is reviewing the rules which relate to them.

The Code Inventory will permit the Regent institutions to comment on the revision of any code sections by other agencies that may affect them. Other agencies will also be able to comment on any revisions proposed by the Regent institutions that may affect them.

Background and Analysis

In September 1999, Governor Thomas Vilsack issued Executive Order Number Eight, directing state agencies to review the rules set forth in the Iowa Administrative Code in order to eliminate outdated, ineffective, and burdensome rules. As required by Activity Number One (Plan Submittal) of the Governor's schedule, on March 1, 2000, the Board Office and the Regent institutions submitted a plan that articulates the manner in which the review of the Regent section of the Iowa Administrative Code (Agency Identification Number 681) will be conducted.

The Regent Plan was approved by the Governor's Office, giving credit for Activity Number Two (Plan Approval) and authority to proceed to the next stage. Activity Number Three (Inventory Submittal) requires that each agency conduct an inventory of both the Iowa Code and the Iowa Administrative Code, noting each place where the agency is mentioned and designating those Code sections where participation in the revision process of other agencies is desired. This process must be completed by November 1, 2000 and is designed to facilitate maximum participation by agencies and their constituencies in the rules that affect them.

The Board Office will complete the Inventory Submittal, in consultation with the university counsels and special superintendents. The completed inventory of both the Iowa Administrative Code and the Iowa Code will be submitted to the Governor's Office by November 1, 2000. This inventory will contain an electronic list of the Iowa Administrative Code chapters where the Regent institutions are mentioned and will permit Regent input in the revision of any chapter that affects the institutions. A hard copy inventory of the Iowa Code will accompany the Iowa Administrative Code electronic inventory.

Following the Code Inventory, the Regent institutions will concentrate on assessing their rules for Activity Number Five (Assessment Submittal), due by November 1, 2001. This activity requires that each agency review its rules and elicit active constituent group input and involvement in order to prepare a written rationale for each recommendation. Input from institutional constituent groups will be crucial to this process as feedback is elicited from university suppliers, students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders. This interaction will form the backbone of the rules revision process and preparations for this activity have begun at the Regent institutions.

The ultimate goal of this process is to create rules and laws that are fair and logical, in order to make state government accessible to Iowans. Because activity at the Regent institutions touches the lives of many Iowans, the assessment and revision of Regent rules is an important part of carrying out Executive Order Number Eight.

The Board Office recommends that the Board receive the report.

Kayla A. J. Stratton Approved: Frank J. Stork
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