
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING — APRIL 1, 2020

Regents Committee Meetings and Regular Board Meeting. The Regents committees and the Board of Regents met by conference call on April 1, 2020. The agenda and materials for the committee and board meetings, as well as audio recordings of the meetings, can be found [here](#). Following are some of the highlights of those meetings.

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The Board of Regents UIHC Committee received an update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommended that the Board approve the UIHC operating budget for FY 2021. The UIHC is seeing 4 to 6 COVID-19 inpatients at any given time, and is following 70 cases, of which nearly 40 have improved. The UIHC has its own testing capability in addition to the State Hygienic Laboratory, and testing capacity will be increased significantly over the next week but will not include testing of asymptomatic individuals. More than 1,000 individuals with symptoms have been tested, of whom 7.0% have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

UIHC representatives noted that elective procedures are postponed and the focus is now on how to increase capacity. Postponement of elective procedures has the potential to reduce revenue at a time when the workforce cannot be reduced. It was also noted that when those postponed procedures are rescheduled, the patients may no longer be employed and may be lacking health insurance, shifting some of those billings to Medicaid.

A study of the UIHC and its peers has shown that UIHC has a higher percentage of high-acuity (more challenging) cases, while revenue per patient is lower. The FY 2021 operating budget request includes a 6.0% rate increase, which is estimated to generate \$11.0 million in additional revenue.

Other committees that met prior to the regular Board meeting were the Property and Facilities Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, the Investment and Finance Committee, and the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Board Meeting — Consent Agenda. In addition to minutes of previous meetings, the Board approved the recommendations of the committees that met earlier in the day, including the 6.0% rate increase for UIHC. The Board also approved:

- Personnel appointments.
- A revision to the Board's freedom of expression policy to address chalking in the outdoor areas of campus.
- Annual reports on diversity and competition with private enterprise.
- Defeasance of dormitory revenue bonds.
- Parking rate changes at Iowa State University (ISU) and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI).
- Residence system rates for the 2020-21 academic year.
- A strategic partnership commitment between the University of Iowa (UI) and Siemens Medical Solutions for equipment and operational improvements.
- A new compensation plan for ISU professional and scientific staff effective May 31, 2020.

- Ratification of Board President Michael Richards' state of emergency declaration dated March 18, 2020, and all subsequent actions taken pursuant to the declaration.
- Receipt of written remarks from faculty and staff on the FY 2021 salary policies that will be presented for Board consideration during the June 2020 meeting.

Election of Officers. The Board reelected Regent Michael Richards to a two-year term as President and Regent Patty Cownie to a two-year term as President Pro Tem.

Board President's Report. President Richards thanked Governor Reynolds and her administration, the General Assembly, and many others inside and outside State government for working with the Regents to serve the best interest of all Iowans during the COVID-19 emergency. He stressed the importance of the Board keeping the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff as the top priority and said additional difficult decisions are likely ahead.

President Richards said that the Regents enterprise is planning on full, normal operations of the universities for the fall 2020 semester, including in-person classes, reopening of residence halls and food service, and resumption of other campus services.

Leadership Reports. ISU President Wendy Wintersteen reported that when classes resumed after spring break, 100.0% of ISU's 6,000 courses had been successfully converted to completely virtual instruction. She noted that reliable Internet access is a problem for some students. The University has created Wi-Fi parking lots near Jack Trice Stadium and the Extension Service offices to help students needing Internet access, among other examples of creative problem solving. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and the State Hygienic Laboratory have teamed up to expedite COVID-19 testing results. ISU Extension is serving all 99 counties and, among other things, is providing weekly 4-H activities online for children. The University is providing food and support to approximately 300 students who are unable to return to their homes during the emergency. The ISU Foundation has created a fund to accept donations to support students affected by the pandemic, and donations are very strong.

Superintendent Steve Gettel reported on the impact of COVID-19 on the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) and Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI). He noted that students on the ISD campus went home on March 13 and all activities have been canceled through April 1. Staff are now working on plans beyond April 1. The ISD campus closed to staff on March 23. IESBVI teachers are working with the area education agencies (AEAs) to support public schools in their efforts to provide services to students at a distance. ISD teachers ensured that all students had online access. The teachers are providing at-home enrichment exercises and connecting with students on social media and the school's website. The work is voluntary and not graded. Superintendent Gettel stressed that he does not believe it is possible to adequately meet the needs of the ISD and IESBVI students virtually.

UNI President Mark Nook reported that 100.0% of UNI's programming is now online, as well as many student services. He noted that 150 students are staying on campus in apartment-style housing with takeout dining, and 115 have asked the university to provide storage for their belongings while they are off campus. UNI will be prorating room and board costs and certain other fees, and refunds will be processed next week. The Iowa Department of Education is relaxing student teaching requirements for 270 fourth-year education students and working with them to ensure they can begin teaching in pre-K-12 schools next fall. UNI is also looking at how to provide a commencement experience for students, as well as considering changes to the format of freshman orientation and recruitment activities. President Nook noted that the UNI 3D printing program is producing personal protective equipment for medical facilities. Theater UNI is making face masks for health care providers, and the university is working with local organizations to provide residential space for health care workers in the area.

UI President Bruce Harreld reported all learning at UI is now online for the remainder of the semester. Research programs are continuing and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology was created in 2014 to support faculty, staff, and students in online learning and has been nationally recognized for best practices. This experience has

helped UI respond to the COVID-19 emergency quickly and with little learning disruption. President Harreld said the focus now needs to be on the longer-term implications for student learning, research, and clinical care.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Regents is scheduled for June 2 to 4, 2020, at the University of Iowa.

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