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**681—3.26(8A)** Administration of the classification plan. The merit system director will direct the uniform administration of the classification plan. Resident directors may recommend new classifications and changes to existing classifications. Employing departments and employees may appeal classification and reclassification in accordance with 681—3.127(8A).

The merit system director, in consultation with the resident directors and subject to the approval of the board of regents, may establish new classifications and change or abolish existing classifications which affect the merit system pay plan in order to meet the needs of the institutions and to properly reflect changes in work and the organization thereof. When the changes do not affect the pay plan of the merit system, the merit system director may, in consultation with the resident directors, change existing classifications and report such changes annually to the board of regents. When the classification of a position is changed, the incumbent will be entitled to continue service in the position provided the incumbent meets the minimum qualifications or provided the duties have not changed appreciably. If the incumbent is not eligible to continue, the incumbent may be transferred, promoted, demoted or laid off in accordance with the rules. Changes in classification will not be used to avoid other provisions of these rules relating to layoffs, promotions, demotions and dismissal.

A review of individual classifications, classification series, or group of classifications may be initiated by the merit system director on a systemwide basis. The administrative review shall preempt the classification appeal procedure provided in 681—3.127(8A). Changes in the classification of positions resulting from a systemwide review shall be effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year unless the merit system director establishes an earlier date for implementation.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 8A.412(5) and 8A.413. [ARC 4850C, IAB 1/1/20, effective 2/5/20]