

IN THIS JUNE ISSUE...

- 2004 Legislative Wrap-Up
- Elections
- UNI Focuses on Out-of-State Recruitment
- 2004-2005 Tuition and Room & Board
- Board of Regents Explores Tuition Policies
- Board of Regents Appoints New President

2004 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The 2004 Iowa legislative session ended with a status quo budget for UNI. In January, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, made full funding of state negotiated salaries its top priority. UNI's portion of the projected salary increases for fiscal year 2005 was \$4.6 million. UNI's second priority request was funding for 24 additional tenure-track faculty. The third request was a capital request to renovate the Physics Building, a portion of the original McCollum Science Hall, and Russell Hall. UNI also submitted special-purpose appropriations to support several community and educational services.

In May, Governor Vilsack signed the Omnibus bill approving \$592.1 million for education and economic development appropriations. The Omnibus bill contained level funding for the Regent universities (the same funding as FY04 after the 2.5 percent across the board cut in October). This means there was no funding for state negotiated salary increases or funding for additional tenure-track faculty positions. UNI is obligated to pay the state negotiated salary increases and will do so by reallocating existing funds into salary lines.

The bill also included provisions that would allow the Board of Regents to bond for \$120 million to renovate existing buildings. UNI's share of the bonding provisions includes \$22 million in funds to renovate the Physics Building, a portion of McCollum Science Hall, and Russell Hall. The Omnibus bill also eliminated the state's work-study program. This program has not been funded by the state for the past four years; however, federal funds still exist for the work-study program.

ELECTIONS

In the next several months elected officials and new candidates seeking office will be campaigning for the 81st General Assembly. Elections will be held in November. You are encouraged to seek out these individuals and learn about their priorities for Iowa. Questions to ask include: Do they support public higher education in Iowa? Will they seek additional funding for the Regent universities? Please refer to UNI's Governmental Relations Web site, www.uni.edu/govrel/legisupate or www.uni.edu/govrel/unite for talking points regarding UNI's priorities and history of budget cuts.

UNI FOCUSES ON OUT-OF-STATE RECRUITMENT

In a move to improve diversity and to provide additional revenue for the university, UNI will be focusing additional recruitment efforts out-of-state. UNI will offer the Purple and Gold Scholarship and the Legacy Scholarship for out-of-state students. The Purple and Gold Scholarship offers \$4,000 for students living on-campus and \$2,000 for students living off-campus.

Out-of-state students whose parent/s or grandparent/s have graduated from UNI may be awarded an additional \$1,000 Legacy Scholarship. Requirements include successful completion of a college preparatory curriculum in high school and the American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). For continued eligibility, students must maintain full-time status (at least 12 credits), a 2.5 GPA, and out-of state residency.

2004-2005 TUITION AND ROOM & BOARD

Students at UNI will see a moderate tuition increase for the 2004-2005 academic year. The tuition and fees and room and board rates are as follows:

- \$5,387 tuition and fees for full-time, undergraduate Iowa resident
- \$12,705 tuition and fees for full-time, undergraduate non-resident

- \$5,273 room and board

The total cost for undergraduate residents is \$10,660.

BOARD OF REGENTS , STATE OF IOWA, EXPLORES TUITION POLICIES

Due to unstable state funding and devastating budget cuts the last four years, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, conducted several tuition studies regarding tuition and fees at Iowa's three state universities. Iowa Code 262.9(23) requires the Board to have a policy for the establishment of tuition rates that provides some predictability for assessing and anticipating changes.

The Board explored several options, including differential tuition by university, differential tuition by upper and lower division classes, differential tuition by program/college, tuition per credit hour for all hours or over 18 hours per semester, and differential tuition for graduate/professional programs. Of these options, the Board authorizes the Board Office to consider proposing differential tuition rates for resident undergraduate students by university when presenting proposed rates for the 2005-2006 academic year. The Board also authorizes the Board Office to consider an appropriate per credit hour rate for over 18 hours per semester when presenting proposed rates. The Board is expected to discuss these proposals in future meetings.

BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA, APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

Effective May 1, John D. Forsyth, Des Moines, is the new President of the Board of Regents. He is chairman and chief executive officer of Wellmark, Inc. He received a B.A. degree in Business Administration and a M.A. in Economics from Michigan State University.

Robert N. Downer, Iowa City, is President Pro Tem. He is a member of the Iowa City law firm of Meardon, Sueppel & Downer PLC. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa College of Law.

UNITE (UNI Together for Education) is a volunteer legislative grassroots network of alumni and friends who are committed to quality public higher education in Iowa, specifically, the needs of UNI. UNITE updates are published to keep you informed of the latest legislative news affecting the university. Please share this message with colleagues and friends.