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Cc: Smith, Dianne [BOARD]
Subject: Transcripts and Videos of October Public Hearings
Attachments: Public Hearings Transcript Oct 2013.docx

Regents,

Attached is a transcript of the speakers' remarks from the October 17 and 18 public hearings. We had a total of 12 speakers at four sites (the special schools had no attendees). Seven of the 12 speakers were students addressing tuition issues.

The following is the link to the video recordings of the speakers from the Board's transparency web site - <http://www.regents.iowa.gov/transparency/hearings.htm>. Each presentation is approximately 5 minutes or less in length.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sheila

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Board of Regents Public Hearings

October 2013

University of Iowa

Don Spellman, Iowa City

My name is Don Spellman, Head Coach of Iowa City Eels Swim Club, president of the Iowa Swim Coaches Association, my wife is an employee with UIHC, resident of Iowa City since 1995, raised my family here, lifelong Hawkeye fan.

My questions are related to what UI Rec Services has done with starting a youth swim program in Iowa City area.

From 2002-2008 my club team, the Iowa City Eels, a local non-profit swim club, which is parent-run with a board, rented pool time at the UI Field House pool and ran meets including various state championships at that site.

In summer 2009, UI Rec Services employees Harry Ostrander and Phil Jolson decided to start a new team at the UI, owned and operated by UI Rec Services, without informing my board or myself on that matter. The new team was started by two former parents from the Iowa City Eels, both with UI ties – one being the spouse of Rod Lehnertz the other one being a former professor at the UI.

We held meetings with former aquatics director and current UI varsity swim coach Mark Long, and former Rec Services director Harry Ostrander dating back for a couple of years before 2009. Those meetings were attended by ICE board members and some of those were actual ICE board meetings if you look at our minutes discussing plans for the CRWC pool and ICE's role/use of that site. The UI representatives had ICE budgets, IC eels board meeting minutes, copies of my contract and also copies of the Iowa City Eels bylaws

One of our former board members is the current UI provost, Barry Butler. In 2009 Barry Butler was president of a team that broke away from the Iowa City Eels called Hawkeye Aquatics. That team in the summer of 2009 in August folded into the Rec Services program. There were some conflict of issues sited during Barry's tenure with the Iowa City board of directors which he resigned in 2008 in December following a Board meeting

The UI director of Planning Design and Construction, Rod Lehnertz, his wife was installed the co-ed coach of the club which is owned by the UI. The other coach was (name not distinguishable), both have been found to have recruited from my team breaking USA swimming rules in the process.

Along with Harry Ostrander, former co-head coaches of the . . . program and other Rec Services coach, current West High coach (name not distinguishable) engaged in various acts of deceptive and illegal recruiting. A complaint was filed with Iowa Swimming, Inc., Board of Review in 2010. The Complaint went to mediation in is still unresolved having had the mediator resigned and now is an employee of the UI law school.

Despite repeated attempts to discuss documents written with Harry Ostrander and others affiliated with Iowa Flight program, I have been denied meetings with President Sally Mason, VP Tom Rocklin, and UI General Counsel Gaye Pelzer. The UI has also been quite reluctant to turn over documents related to the conflict with ICE.

The Iowa Flyers program also started by attacking the Iowa City Eels many acts including intimidation and internal manipulation at the UI using UI resources and departments. UI said nothing to the general public or I-Club members when fund raising was taking place for a new facility that they were going to start a youth swim team and they have not been honest with their budgets or funding of that team as well. Conflicts of interest were rampant and ongoing in dealing with the UI given the consistent involvement of Provost Butler and Rod Lehnertz.

After watching what took place in 2007 with the sexual assault of a swim team member and the scapegoating of Marcus Mills during that time, I don't trust the UI to conduct a thorough investigation and therefore I am asking the Regents to get involved at this point. Last year's conflicts with the faculty advisory committee at the UI College of Education and the fact that Barry Butler had a role in that and the firing of former Iowa flyers swim team coach Megan ??? in 2012 have only reinforced my view that the UI is not only well equipped to conduct a proper investigation but is also willing to engage in tactics that try to make their problems go away easily.

I would ask the Regents to conduct a independent investigation of these actions especially of former Rec Services Director Harry Ostrander to see what action took place during formation of Iowa Flyers program and to make sure that other non-profit youth sports area programs and teams are not targeted in some fashion that IC Eels was in the future. I would also implore Regents to have Regents have Sally Mason be held accountable and others for unethical and illegal actions that may have taken place during that time. I ask that ICE receive apology from UI Rec Services department and that the department settle its current complaint sitting with Iowa Swimming, Inc., Board of Review.

I also advise that Regent Robert Downer recues himself from any and all discussions and any and all decisions related to this matter given that he lives in Iowa City and he knows many of these people involved in this mess personally and on professional basis.

Dale Boerhave, Iowa City

[Mr. Boerhave's comments follow. He also asked a number of questions about the publication and process of the public hearings, which Regent Walsh and Mark Braun answered for him.]

I have some questions about whether the information is getting out to the public as far as what the meeting is going to be, where it's going to be and that sort of thing. I happened to run across the meeting for tonight in the Sunday Register. I haven't seen anything in the local paper. I don't know if it was in the Daily Iowan or not.

I belong to another organization called Concerned Citizens and we have certain issues that we deal with and I'm not going to discuss that tonight.

One concern we have in the organization I belong to is the accessibility of citizens to attend the Regent Board meetings. They've not been treated too well in the past when they went to Regent Board meetings and they wanted to express themselves and weren't recognized and when they started to talk they were escorted out of the room by the police or something - that's not too good. We want to express the views of people on different subjects.

So that's what I was mainly concerned about, the availability of the media to have and announce these meetings beforehand and then also then how this is transcribed onto the Board of Regents and what they do. That's my main thing.

Katherine Valde, UI Student

My name is Katherine Valde, I am the undergraduate student body president at the UI. I wanted to come in and express my support and student government's support for the proposed appropriations request on the docket for this upcoming meeting next week.

I know we are all really pleased to see the in-state tuition freeze on the agenda and I think a 1.8% increase for out-of-state students is modest and in keeping with inflation. So we are really pleased that all the talks from last year and this year have boiled over for this proposal. We are really excited to lend our voices, our stories and our advocacy efforts to seeing that it become a reality through the legislative session this year. We've done some meetings with state legislators over the summer and we are training our senators on how to share their stories and how to lobby and so we hope to be in the Capitol this winter and in the spring and see this become a reality.

Abby Davis and Jenny Elliff, UI Students

We are third year students in the College of Pharmacy here at Iowa. We want to express our thanks for keeping the tuition for the College of Pharmacy as low as possible. I know that undergrad tuition is frozen for next year. We do appreciate your work in keeping our tuition as low as possible.

We are both from state of Iowa and I personally really love Iowa and I know Jenny does as well. It would be really nice to have the Board of Regents look into programs helping the students stay in the state of Iowa after we graduate, some sort of tax incentive or tax credit program when we get jobs because of all the debt we will have when we get done

We're really excited to have the Governor and Lieutenant Governor visit the College of Pharmacy on October . . . so they can see all of the amazing things we are doing.

Thank you for your time.

Iowa State University

Hillary Kletscher, ISU Student

My name is Hillary Kletscher. I'm a junior in bioscience systems engineering. I'm from southwest Minnesota so I chose Iowa State specifically for engineering. I'm serving as vice president of the Government of the Student Body so representing students, and as an out-of-state student, from a personal perspective, it's always interesting to learn more about advocating for in-state students and why it's so important that we do support our Iowa students.

From that perspective, talking to Iowa State students, everyone loves talking about a tuition freeze. I'm going to say that right away. Students are really ecstatic that this is hopefully going to happen for another year. I talked with someone right as I was coming in this room, and he had to go to another meeting, so I was like, "is there anything you want me to say" and he's like, "well, tell them they can keep this up as long as they want to." And I said, "fair enough." And so students are really excited about that, just keeping college education affordable.

But on top of that is a big conversation that we're having here at Iowa State as students, obviously we're talking about enrollment but we're also talking about continuing to have that academic quality, and talking about, from an in-state student perspective and an out-of-state student, how the cost of education differs and what that means from both perspectives. And so definitely we're very supportive of the tuition freeze, we're real excited about that. But the conversation about continuing to offer a great education for out-of-state students and making coming to Iowa State and the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa really worth their money I think is really important. And that really comes into that academic quality conversation and making sure we continue to have that high rigor that gets students jobs and careers and makes them number 1 on the marketplace.

And there are a lot of different things students are talking about. Talk about one thing we're discussing at Iowa State that we're discussing is educating our students about what tenure is – what that means for professors and what that means for us as students. I have a project that I'm personally working on and something that I have talked to Regent Walsh about and something that if it works here at Iowa State, maybe we'll see if we can share that with the other universities, but it will be about educating students about tenure letting them know how their input is used and why it's important because we obviously want our students to have a great academic experience, an affordable academic experience, but overall walk away with a great education.

We're excited about the tuition freeze and we're continuing to have conversations about academic quality for all of our students.

Carly Bormann, ISU Student

My name is Carly Bormann. I'm a senior in industrial engineering, and the topic I'm speaking about is the in-state tuition freeze. As an engineering student, obviously as we become juniors and seniors our fees automatically increase so having the tuition freeze would help us so it's less that we have to pay, especially because myself, I have an extra semester as a senior so it's one more year that I have to pay, as well as my younger brother is starting college next year at Iowa State so he will also be paying fees as well. So to have two students attending college at the same time is kind of a burden for some families so by freezing tuition it makes it that much easier so we don't have increased fees for everything else. It's greatly appreciated to keep tuition where it is.

Adam Guenther, ISU Student

My name is Adam Guenther. I'm a senior in Animal Science and Genetics. Today I want to talk about the tuition freeze for Iowa in-state residents. While I may be an out-of-state student, I think it's really important that higher education is affordable for all students in Iowa. One of the reasons I chose Iowa State coming from a Chicago suburb was that Iowa State was affordable, it had good programs. So in the coming year I hope that Iowa State becomes an affordable and educational institution so students even from outside of Iowa can come and have an affordable higher education.

Shannon Goes, ISU Student

My name is Shannon Goes. I'm a student at Iowa State University. I'm from Ankeny, Iowa. In regards to the tuition freeze for in-state students, I'm definitely in favor of it for a couple of reasons. The first is that it's really nice to graduate with a lower amount of debt. Most students graduate with an average of about \$30,000 and that follows you for years, and it's a hardship to pay off. Also, it would be beneficial if students had to work fewer hours through college, or not at all. It's really difficult. I personally work approximately 12 hours last semester to about 20 hours a week in order to pay for college. It's difficult with classes, and organizations, and to be involved and to work. Also, I think that a tuition freeze for in-state students is important because we've heard time and time again that Iowa really supports education and it's the main reason people live here, that people come here, and it's really great. I think that an affordable education for in-state students encourages them to be here and experience the universities and live here and work here afterwards which can only help build the economy and encourage . . . (inaudible).

University of Northern Iowa

Rosemary Beach, Cedar Falls

I would like to speak about past things. Perhaps the people of Cedar Falls are not quite as happy about the closing of Price Lab School yet. I say that after the Waterloo Courier came out today with an article, 'Getting it Right.'

I speak to that after watching Price Lab being torn down and the lack of communication given to the people of Cedar Falls before that happened. Tearing that down impacted Cedar Falls and many people in different ways. It's called demolition by neglect. It came so suddenly to the people. I realize the rest of the people in charge knew about what was happening for years.

For the people of Cedar Falls, it's still an open wound for many of us. I hope you are more open to what's going on in this location. We love this town and this university.

Professor Joe Gorton, Waterloo, President of United Faculty

Thank you for having this meeting and allowing the public to make comments. I'm here in my capacity as president of United Faculty. In that capacity, I have the obligation to frequently request information from the university administration.

My message is good news – so far, with the new transparency procedures put in place, it seems to me the university is making a pretty good effort to provide information in timely way. United Faculty is not having any difficulties right now receiving information we request, including reports that are required under our contract, but also ancillary data and information we request on a periodic basis. That's good news and I'm pleased to report it.

I would also like to comment, as I have in the past to the Regents, on the way the public is allowed to address the Board. The original legislation created that led to this particular procedure included an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board during its regular Board meetings. That's what I would like to encourage the Board to continue to think about. This might seem cumbersome on occasion at some meetings but it has real benefits for democracy. For example, the opportunity for Ms. Beach to make her comments on her view of how the university is operating and how it affects the community, that's very important. Those types of messages will be received differently if they happen in the presence of the decision makers.

I would like to encourage the Board to continue moving in the direction you have done with this procedure but expand it to do as many other states across the country have done and that is allow members of the community to address the Board during regular meetings.

Board Office

Ed Johnson, Clive

My name is Ed Johnson, I'm a resident of Clive. I have spent the 35 years in my career in agriculture, I'm trained in agriculture, I'm a professional agronomist. I have retired I worked with seed companies, fertilizer companies, an agricultural chemical pesticide company.

I wanted to come here and talk to the Regents about where, from my perspective, where universities that you're overseeing are going with regards to agricultural policy.

I really do appreciate the work the Regents do in terms of oversight. Obviously, there's a great deal in fiscal responsibilities of a university and you can lead them in that direction and ensure that values and ethics that students need to come out of the university with are given to them through their teachers, professors. And finally that the product our universities put out, that is the students and their education, can meet the needs of our society in the future.

But universities must also, in their research, must try and seek the truth. Research cannot be shackled or directed by any particular group for their own needs. If we are truly to be stewards of the soil, and I think farmers are the stewards of the soil, but also researchers and people who are involved in agriculture are stewards of the soil and really stewards of the earth because this is what we're going to pass on. And we can't look at short term, a lot of issues must be looked on longer term and what is their impact.

I'm not anti-GMO, in fact I think the traits that are put into some of our products, our seeds, some are very good traits, have made a huge impact on farming in terms of reduction in the amount of herbicides, different types of herbicides, the soil insecticides that we were putting into the soil. But I do feel that in the last few years that the Regents have kind of . . . maybe it isn't aware to the majority of people but I think it's certainly aware to me and a lot of other people . . . I think the Regents have kind of had a little too much say in what research is being done and should be done at our universities and I believe that's a direct consequence of the fact that a lot of companies who have a vested interest in certain parts of agriculture are actually the major funders of university research and that research is being censored a little bit or the research that's going on is really being tailored to meet some of the needs of some of the large supporters in the private sector, some of the large companies.

Round-Up Ready or GMO seed is great. But I can tell you it's done not one thing for feeding the world. What it's done, we've grown 11-13 million acres of corn for the last 30 years, 80-100 million acres of corn in the U.S. It hasn't grown. What's happened is we've had influences that say maybe this corn should go into ethanol which is taking a good 15% of our corn crop. What's happened is farm implement dealers are making lots of money but it really hasn't helped the farmer and that goes back to the ethical thing and fertilizer usage.

I mean, there's no reason in the world why we need to put fertilizer on in the winter when the soil is frozen and it gets into our streams. We're the laughing stock of the world in terms of Iowa putting more fertilizer into the streams, into the water, than any place else in the world.

What I'm asking you is, I know that your group, and some of the individuals in your group, have a very strong financial interest in parts of agriculture. Don't let that drive your decision making. The fact that you rejected the Tom Harkin Institute because you wouldn't let them get into agricultural research because you wanted to tell them what they could research is terrible.

I'm not a radical, I think I'm a pretty straight level-headed person. I'm for research, but come on guys, you're letting some of your people, the tail wag the dog. Our universities have to seek the truth. We should have answers to fertilizer overuse. We should have actions for water quality. If we think that farmers are going to do it by themselves you're being bamboozled. There's a lot of great farmers, they're the salt of the earth, a lot of them. But also some of them are so big that they'll cut corners, unless there's legislation they won't do a darn thing.

Again, I wish you all the best, please keep up the good work, but please, please, let's make the universities a place where the truth is sought, not someplace where you can manipulate research.

Thank you.

Special Schools

No attendees.