

Presidential Forum**East Room, UIHC****February 25, 2014****Sexual Assaults**

- Several members of our campus community have let me know that my remarks on sexual assault printed last week in *The Daily Iowan* were hurtful. I did not intend them to be, and I am sorry for the pain my words caused.
- I want to make my position clear. I believe that there is no excuse for sexual assault. I have zero tolerance for sexual misconduct, and I know that sexual assault is never the fault of the survivor.
- The safety and well-being of every student is an absolute priority. The university will do everything in its power to prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and hold offenders responsible, and I invite all members of our campus to play a role in confronting this issue.
- I appreciate the comments and suggestions that I have received. I will convene a listening session in the near future so that students, staff, and faculty can share their views directly with me and other campus leaders.
- The fact is, our university has made dramatic strides in developing resources and streamlining procedures that combat all manner of sexual misconduct:

- I appointed a sexual misconduct response coordinator, Monique DiCarlo, who reports directly to the university president.
 - We have simplified information about reporting and support options, including a new website: osmrc.uiowa.edu.
 - For students, we've required mandatory education on consent and risk reduction.
 - For staff and faculty, we have provided clear instruction on reporting responsibilities.
 - We have stepped up bystander-intervention training to help make prevention part of our university culture.
 - We've embraced our responsibility to issue timely warnings whenever we receive a report of sexual assault or other offenses that can pose a threat to our campus.
 - We have focused our efforts not just on sexual assault, but on domestic and dating violence, stalking, and harassment—behaviors that can lead to sexual violence. We're also addressing the connection between high-risk drinking and sexual misconduct.
 - Most fundamentally, we have seized every opportunity to confront sexual misconduct directly, talk openly about the problem, and together offer solutions.
- I call on all of us to help protect each other and create a culture where survivors of sexual assault are supported and empowered.

- We will not stop working to educate our entire community until every person on campus is safe.

Legislative Session/Issues

- The legislative session is in full swing in Des Moines, and I would like to use my remaining time to update you on the priorities we are working on with our state leaders.

4% Appropriations Increase/Tuition Freeze

- We are very pleased that the Board of Regents has approved a tuition freeze for undergraduate resident students at the state universities for the second year in a row for the 2014–2015 academic year.
 - This is the first two-year tuition freeze since 1975.
 - The freeze is proposed in conjunction with a 4 percent boost in general university funding from the state legislature and the governor.
- We are also very pleased that Governor Branstad has included both support for the tuition freeze and the 4 percent appropriations increase for the Regents institutions in his proposed state budget to the legislature.
- We look forward to continuing to work closely with our legislative representatives as the session moves forward to make sure the Regents' and the Governor's proposals are included intact in the final state budget.

New Pharmacy Building

- We are also very pleased that in January, Governor Branstad set aside \$2 million in his budget recommendation for planning for the new College of Pharmacy building.
- Last year, the Board of Regents approved \$70 million in state money over five years for the new building, and the legislature approved the planning dollars.
- You may remember that also last year, the governor vetoed the planning dollars, but we continued working with him and the legislature to keep the project moving.
- We were pleased to provide Governor Branstad with a tour of the building and were able to show him the significantly aging building and the inadequacy of the facilities for a modern pharmacy program.
- Throughout this past year, we have still been able to move forward with our planning, and we are pleased that with the governor's support now and with what we anticipate to be continued legislative support, that planning can continue on course.
- We at the university, of course, remain committed to a new pharmacy building as one of our most pressing capital project needs.

Regional Economic Development Engagement Centers

- I hope you had the chance to read Vice President for Research and Economic Development Dan Reed's recent guest opinion in the February 8 *Iowa City Press-Citizen*.

- In that piece, Dan succinctly and powerfully expressed our commitment to economic development.
- Let me share with you just a few lines:
 - “America’s universities are responding to their own set of disruptive changes. As a result, public universities, in particular, are beginning to embrace a new paradigm—one of engagement and partnerships to drive innovation and spur the economy.
 - “There is a pressing need [in our state] for advanced entrepreneurship and IT training, along with practical partnerships to solve the business and technical needs of Iowa businesses.
 - “There is [also] a broad desire and need for the University of Iowa to play a much more direct and engaged role in helping Iowa entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large companies be both competitive and innovative.
 - “The University of Iowa is fully committed to forming active, engaged partnerships with the state and private sector to build Iowa’s human capital for the 21st century. Together, the future can be and will be bright.”
- One of the most important initiatives to realize this vision is our new regional economic development engagement centers.
- Implementing these will be among the major tasks of our new economic development director, David Conrad, along with Vice President Reed and Associate Vice President David Hensley.

- We are now in the process of creating the first two in a series of these centers, one in Western and one in Eastern Iowa.
- The centers will work in partnership with local businesses, economic development groups, and community colleges to solve tangible and specific economic problems and to address specific skills shortages, as Dan says.
- Each center will leverage local expertise and existing facilities to target both statewide needs and regional opportunities.
- These centers will provide—on site—such services and programs as business consulting, entrepreneurial training, IT training, IT technical assistance, R&D collaborations, student connections to experiential learning and internships, and much more.
- During my budget presentation at the governor’s open hearing in Des Moines in December, I proposed new investments in Iowa’s knowledge economy, including this statewide network of integrated engagement centers.
- Our economic development team—Dan, David, and David—presented a compelling, detailed case for these centers at January’s Economic Development Subcommittee meeting in Des Moines.
- We look forward to continuing to work with our state leaders to fund the expansion of these centers statewide.

Belin-Blank Center Residential Academy

- Central to our economic development obligations is educating students for the 21st-century economy.
- And one of our major goals in the coming years is not only to educate our students at all levels in new, innovative ways, but also to keep our best and brightest students here at home in order to build Iowa's knowledge economy.
- Another new initiative to do just that is our proposed STEM residential academy through the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development.
- Through the academy, high-ability STEM students would complete their final two years of high school simultaneously with their first two years at the UI.
- These high-achieving students will have the opportunity to graduate from the university two years early while giving them a leg up on their future and, we hope, contributing to the state's highly skilled workforce.
- We have proposed this academy to our state leaders as well, and, as with our other initiatives, we are continuing to work to gain their support.

Hawkeye Caucus

- For the past few years, our Hawkeye Caucus Day in Des Moines has been very successful.
- I thank Peter Matthes, Keith Saunders, and the rest of our Governmental Relations team for organizing this special and important day.
- This year, we will descend on the State Capitol on April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- I encourage everyone to join us.

- This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase what the University of Iowa does for our students and communities across the state;
 - to talk with our state leaders about our achievements, our goals, and our needs;
 - and to tell our story to our state legislators in person.

Regents Task Forces

- You have no doubt heard about two initiatives that the Board of Regents has recently started, and I would like to take a couple of minutes to share some brief information with you on them.

- The first is a task force focused on **performance-based funding**, an idea that is gaining ground across the higher education landscape in this country.

- Tennessee was the first state to base higher education funding entirely on outcomes, such as graduation numbers.

- Iowa has used the same funding formula for its public universities for decades, so the Board of Regents has convened this task force to look at how state dollars are allocated to the three public universities and consider the implications of using performance metrics such as Tennessee's.

- The five-member task force has met several times to hear from local and national research groups about what other states are doing, what is working, and what a funding change might mean here.
- Former Regents President David Miles is chairing this committee. Other members include Regent Katie Mulholland and three alumni representatives from the three universities:
 - retired Maytag CEO Len Hadley,
 - retired co-president of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Cara Heiden,
 - and retired Senior Executive Vice President of Wells Fargo and Co-Chair of the UNI Foundation Board of Trustees Mark Oman.
- The task force will make recommendations to the Board of Regents in June on how to proceed, if at all, with performance-based funding.
- After receiving the recommendations, the Regents will study the issue further and possibly make a recommendation to the governor.
- The other Regents initiative is an **efficiency and transformation review**. Regent Larry McKibben is in charge of this effort.
- As state funding continues to challenge public higher education across the country, this effort will look at all three of Iowa's universities and examine possible efficiencies across the institutions—in programs, academics, and administration.

- Deloitte Consulting Services has been retained to do an efficiency study. Deloitte has reviewed the operations of dozens of universities, including the University of Illinois and Michigan State University.
- It's important to note that any savings that result from this review will stay with the individual universities to be reinvested locally.

Introduction of Joe Brennan

- At the core of our success in realizing our goals and meeting our aspirations is strong, clear, effective, and strategic communication, especially as we deal with our public constituencies, as I have been talking about this morning.
- I am therefore delighted that our special presenter today is our new Vice President for Strategic Communication, Joe Brennan.
- With more than 20 years of higher-education communications experience, Joe has come to us from his position as Associate Vice President for University Communications at the State University of New York at Buffalo.
- Joe's responsibilities include leading University Communication and Marketing, which includes University Creative Services and University News Services.
- Joe also oversees the Hancher performing-arts program, and he is doing important work in steering consistent and successful messaging across the university.
- Joe has already brought some great ideas and new perspectives to the university, and I am grateful that he has agreed to meet with us this morning to share more about his vision for strategic communication at Iowa.

- Please welcome Joe Brennan.