

**Faculty Senate Office**

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December 18, 2006

Michael G. Gartner  
President, Board of Regents  
State of Iowa

Dear President Gartner:

The process employed in the recently terminated search for a new University of Iowa president was a significant departure from the traditional search process employed so successfully for many years at all three state universities. In view of the fact that the search failed amid substantial public criticism in the press of all parties, it is appropriate to reflect upon the experience before determining the process to be used in the new search. This reflection is important not only to identify the lessons that need to be learned from the failed search but also to maximize the chances that the new search will succeed. The stakes are too high to fail to spend an appropriate period in reflection and discussion.

We think it would be appropriate for faculty from the three Regents universities to contribute to this reflection. Thus, we write to request an opportunity for faculty from UI, ISU and UNI to appear at a special Board meeting in January to make a presentation on and discuss with the Board three issues.

They are:

- 1) The key features of the traditional search processes used for many years by the three Regents universities.
- 2) The advantages and disadvantages of these traditional search processes.
- 3) The pros and cons of a search process that does not include on-campus interviews of publicly-identified candidates.

The University of Iowa faculty also request an opportunity to address a fourth issue, as appropriate, namely the pros and cons of a “cooling off” period.

It is our intention to invite colleagues from the three campuses who have significant experience with presidential searches and who can speak with authority about the “ins and outs” of presidential searches on our respective campuses.

Sincerely,

Sheldon F. Kurtz  
President, University of Iowa Faculty Senate

cc: Members of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa  
Gary Steinke, Executive Director  
Gary Fethke, Interim President