Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 29, 2010

Agenda Item: Membership – Research and Development School Advisory Council (Approve)

Iowa Goal: All

Equity Impact: The new Research and Development (R & D) School at UNI will be a resource for schools and teachers across the state.

Presenter: Kevin Fangman, Acting Director
Iowa Department of Education

Attachments: 2

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the membership of the Research and Development School Advisory Council.

Background: Senate File 470 establishes a Statewide Research and Development School located at UNI (transitioned from the current Malcolm Price Lab School). This is a collaborative effort between the University of Northern Iowa and the Department of Education in partnership with other educational entities in the state. The school is designed to raise student achievement, enhance educator preparation, and focus on research that transforms educational practice.

The legislation creates a 17 member Advisory Council to review and evaluate the educational processes and results of the school. The Council is composed of three standing members, four members of the general assembly, and ten additional members recommended jointly by the President of UNI and the Director of the Department and approved by the State Board of Regents and the State Board of Education.

Additional information about the school and the recommended membership for the Advisory Council is attached.
New College of Education Dean on-board – Strategic Planning will begin

- With the hiring of UNI’s College of Education Dean, Dwight Watson, UNI is poised to work collaboratively with the Department of Education, ISU, UoF, private colleges, AEA’s, public schools, and business partners on statewide strategic planning, and on the start-up of the Advisory Council late this summer and early fall.

- UNI will convene 8-10 key statewide education leaders with their leadership team to begin rigorous strategic planning for the school. This strategic planning committee will prepare a plan for the school that will be shared with the 17-member Advisory Council that tentatively plans to meet in September.

Begin Year Two of Transitioning Malcolm Price Lab School to the statewide Research & Development school

- During year two of this three year transition process we will:
  - Determine tools and processes for statewide demonstration and dissemination.
  - Continue to define roles/responsibilities for partnerships with AEAs and schools.
  - Complete the strategic plan, develop the management model, and begin discussions on seeking potential grants and external funding opportunities.
  - Begin the process to consider individuals for the standing 11-member Institutional -Research Committee (SIRC). (Appointment is by the UNI President and the DE Director.) This committee will serve as the clearinghouse for investigative and applied research. They will create research protocols, approve research proposals, and review research results.

Overview

- UNI is pleased to work with DE and statewide education and business partners to focus on the state’s educational priorities such as the Iowa Core. The statewide Research & Development school will elevate collaborative opportunities for educational research and practices that are essential to Iowa’s next generations and the vitality of the state of Iowa.

- The Research and Development school will be of great value to the state of Iowa in many ways. By completing research and advancing teaching practices, we will have educational resources readily available for the state and we will work to raise and sustain the level of educational attainment. The Research and Development school will be designed to meet the diverse educational needs of an increasingly diverse Iowa. The school will be a resource for pre-service and career educators, enhancing teacher preparation, and initiating research that transforms practice.

- As always, the school will continue to partner with school districts during the year, to promote improved teaching pedagogy and learning processes. We have hosted many professional development days for school conferences, and we will continue these efforts throughout this transition process.
Statewide Research & Development School – July 15, 2010

This following is a request for approval of 10 individuals to serve on the Research and Development Advisory Council.

Senate File 470 legislation addresses transitioning Malcolm Price Laboratory School into Iowa’s PK-12 Statewide Research and Development (R&D) School. This is a collaborative effort between the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa State University (ISU), the University of Iowa (UofI) and the Iowa Department of Education (DE) that aims to:

- Raise and sustain the level of all Iowa PK-12 students’ educational attainment and personal development.
- Enhance the preparation and professional competence of Iowa educators.
- Focus on research that transforms practice to meet Iowa’s changing educational needs.

**R&D School Primary Functions:**

- Research: study and test new innovative teaching and learning practices
- Development: determine effective pedagogical practices
- Demonstration: model effective teaching practices
- Dissemination: share effective instructional practice

**Advisory Council Purpose:**

- The 17-member Advisory Council will review and evaluate the educational processes and results of the school. This Council will provide an annual report to the UNI President, the DE Director, the Board of Regents, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly.

**Seeking Board Approval:**

- 10 members of the R&D Advisory Council are jointly recommended by the UNI President and the DE Director for appointment to the Council. Approval of these 10 members is required by the State Board of Regents and the State Board of Education. Each member shall serve three-year staggered terms, and shall be eligible to serve for two consecutive three year terms in addition to any partial initial term served.

- To be all-inclusive, the entire 17 member R&D Advisory Council is listed on the attached chart. Board approval is needed for the ten members that have been jointly recommended for appointment by the UNI President and the DE Director.
Transition Timeframe:
- Fall 2010 begins year two of this transition. UNI’s new Dean of Education, Dr. Dwight C. Watson, will begin working collaboratively with the Department of Education, ISU, UofI, private colleges, AEA’s, public schools, and business partners on statewide strategic planning, and on the start-up of the Advisory Council. This year, UNI will also foster statewide processes for demonstrating and disseminating new research-based best practices.

- The plan is to have the school fully operational as a Statewide Research & Development School for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Advisory Council Membership:
Pursuant to Senate File 470, section 256G.4, the 17-member Advisory Council consists of:

- Three standing committee members
  - DE Director
  - UNI President
  - Director of the research and development school (ex-officio, nonvoting member)

- Ten members appointed
  - One member representing PK-6 public school teachers*
  - One member representing grade 7-9 public school teachers*
  - One member representing grade 10-12 public school teachers*
  - One member representing PK-12 administrators
  - One member representing area education agencies
  - One member representing ISU
  - One member representing U of I
  - One member representing the parents of R&D School students
  - One member representing business and industry
  - One member representing Iowa private colleges

*One of these three must be an active teacher in the Cedar Falls school district
  - All three teachers must participate on a Teacher Quality Committee

- Four members of the general assembly serving as ex-officio, nonvoting members.

Attachment: Statewide Research and Development School Proposed Advisory Council
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