

February 13, 2018

Dear Iowa State Community:

I want to update you on the status of potential midyear cuts to Iowa State's budget and apprise you of the Board of Regents' decision to postpone discussion on setting tuition rates. We understand the important impact both these issues have on our students, faculty, staff, and the university as a whole, which is why we want to be as open and transparent with you as possible.

You may recall the Iowa Senate proposed a bill Jan. 25 that would take back \$19.3 million from the Regents institutions, including \$6.9 million from Iowa State University for the current (FY18) fiscal year that ends June 30, 2018. The Senate has since amended its bill, reducing the total cut to the Regents institutions to \$14.6 million and removing language that stipulates how these cuts would be distributed to Iowa State and the other institutions, instead leaving that decision to the Board of Regents. This revised bill has been approved by the full Senate and is now in the House for consideration.

The House has proposed its own bill that would take back a total of \$8.1 million from the Regents institutions and leaves it to the Board of Regents to determine how those cuts would be distributed across the universities. The bill is now working its way through the normal committee and full House debate and voting process.

University leadership is continuing to inform the legislature of the devastating potential impacts these cuts may have on Iowa State. The Alliance for Iowa State deployed another [call to action](#) last Friday to more than 200,000 Iowa State faculty, staff, students, alumni, and stakeholders, asking them to contact their legislators to oppose midyear cuts. You can subscribe to Alliance for Iowa State updates [here](#).

Given the uncertainty, the Board of Regents has decided to postpone discussion on tuition rates for the 18-19 academic year until its April meeting.

This is a very challenging situation. We understand the frustration this causes our students and their families who are struggling to plan and budget for their college education. We also recognize the angst faculty and staff may feel as they wonder how midyear budget reductions could impact them. We will continue to fight for funding for Iowa State University and convey that state resources should be regarded not as a cost, but as an investment in our students and the economic vitality of the state. We will continue to provide you with information on the budget and tuition processes as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President