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Statement from Iowa Board of Regents President Bruce Rastetter on University of Iowa Presidential Search Process

One of the search committee's primary charges was to recruit candidates for the position of president at the University of Iowa. Parker Executive Search reiterated this charge throughout the process to all members of the committee. Parker wanted the search committee to talk to as many people as possible to find qualified candidates, which would get us the best possible pool to choose from. All of us on the search committee took that seriously and recruited candidates.

On July 30, 2015 several meetings were held in Ames with Bruce Harreld as part of the recruiting process for the position of president at the University of Iowa.

One was between Mr. Harreld and Regents Katie Mulholland and Milt Dakovich, while a second meeting was between Mr. Harreld and Regents Mary Andringa and Larry McKibben. Regent Mulholland is President Pro Tem, Regent Dakovich is chair of the Property and Facilities Committee, Regent McKibben is chair of the TIER Committee, and Regent Andringa is chair of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Committee. In addition, that evening, Mr. Harreld had dinner with Iowa State University president Steven Leath. I did not attend any of these gatherings but did help coordinate. Mr. Harreld was not reimbursed for any expenses.

The purpose of these meetings, which were at Mr. Harreld's request, was for him to become more informed about the expectations the Board had for the next president of the University of Iowa. Mr. Harreld had visited the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics on July 8 as a guest lecturer, and had lunch with myself, as well as three other search committee members: interim University of Iowa president Jean Robillard, Dean of the Tippie College of Business Sarah Fisher Gardial, and president of the UI Faculty Senate Christina Bohannon. This was part of the recruiting process. Each of those who had lunch with Mr. Harreld that day, as well as others on the search committee, recruited candidates to apply as we were encouraged to do.

I assisted in recruiting six candidates, including Bruce Harreld. Three of the candidates I assisted with were in conjunction with Dr. Robillard. Four of the candidates that I reached out to were among the nine selected for airport interviews in Chicago on August 11-12. All nine of the candidates that conducted airport interviews were nominated or recruited.

I considered Mr. Harreld's requests for these additional meetings on July 30 not only appropriate, but due diligence on his part. He wanted to gather as many facts as he could about the position. I appreciate the fact that he was interested enough to want to do his research on the job, and took his time gathering facts.

His candidacy was then discussed by the entire 21-member search committee, and the committee determined he would be one of nine candidates chosen to participate in airport interviews with the search committee in Chicago.

Following airport interviews, the search committee then selected Mr. Harreld to be one of the four finalists brought to campus, where they had a full day of discussions with a variety of groups, including an open forum for the general public. The entire nine-member Board of Regents had the opportunity to interview each finalist, and on September 3 unanimously voted Bruce Harreld to be the next president at the University of Iowa.