

## President Lang Remarks on Price Laboratory School

### Board of Regents Meeting

February 27, 2012

Before the Board begins its consideration of the recommendation in the agenda item, I would first like to extend thanks to the countless number of Iowans – students, parents, teachers, alumni, community members and others – who have expressed to the Board their thoughtful and passionate views about the Price Laboratory School at UNI. We have read your emails, listened to your phone calls, and watched in the news and social media your many efforts in response to President Allen’s announcement last week. Your outpouring of strength and concern is a great testament to the university.

As we begin our meeting today, it is important to accept two critical realities.

First, these are difficult times at the University of Northern Iowa.

State budget cuts of recent years have provided enormous challenges at UNI and President Allen has responded by making difficult choices in the name of high quality programs, operational efficiencies, and sustaining the excellence of the university.

While both the Board of Regents and President Allen are extremely proud that Iowa students represent 92% of UNI's enrollment, and that currently 75% of UNI graduates are working in Iowa, the low percentage of nonresident students substantially hampers the university's revenues. This has been an ongoing challenge for President Allen.

The second reality is that despite the tough times at UNI, President Allen is committed to keeping the university sustainable and strong.

He has proven that he has the critical vision to balance innovation with fiscal responsibility. He will continue to pursue alternative and innovative models to strengthen the university despite serious funding limitations. Ben is committed to retaining and enhancing UNI's status as a leader in education, regardless of budget restraints.

President Allen is an outstanding president. He is leading the university in a manner consistent with the expectations of the Board of Regents and the expectations of Iowans. Once again, this includes his emphasis on high quality programs, cost-effective operations, and sustaining the University's excellence. This is at the core of President Allen's recommendations unveiled last week.

Whatever the outcome of today's vote, President Allen will need critical time to make necessary adjustments before this fiscal year ends on June 30. With that in mind, the Board has called this meeting today.

We are at a critical point for UNI, and neither President Allen nor the Board has all of the answers. However, the Board has full confidence in President Allen and his continuing commitment to the hard work and the difficult, strategic and courageous decisions that lie ahead.

The future of the University of Northern Iowa is in excellent hands.