

Summary of EFC response to the UI presidential search

The EFC met in an emergency meeting on January 26, 2006 at the request of the University of Iowa Faculty Senate. Based on reports that the Board of Regents was planning to have a construct a search committee for newly-resigned President Skorton that excluded UI faculty and staff, the Faculty Senate requested that the elected faculty bodies from the individual colleges write statements decrying such a plan and emphasizing the importance of including university people in the search for a university president. The EFC unanimously agreed on the wording for such a statement via email, and publicized a draft of it via a college-wide survey, which was available from Friday 1/27 through the end of the business day on Monday 1/30. The outcome of the survey was a vote of 55 in favor of the statement, one opposed. The statement was amended based on comments from the faculty, and the final version (shown below) was sent to the Faculty Senate and, later, to each member of the Board of Regents.

For at least 40 years, the Board of Regents has selected a President of the University of Iowa from a pool of candidates who were identified by a search process that was based on the University campus, and steered by a search committee with a faculty majority and faculty member as chair. The search process, which involved campus visits by the final candidates, has been highly successful in identifying and hiring highly-qualified presidents who have directed and represented the university with distinction. Critical to that success, we believe, are two principles: that the search committee include a majority of university faculty, staff and students; and that the university community be engaged in the choice of their next leader. The faculty of the Henry B. Tippie College of Business believes that the State of Iowa would be best served if the search for President Skorton's successor were to use the UI's long-standing practice based on these two principles.