



Oct. 15

Building Homecoming spirit

Homecoming lawn displays are being assembled this week throughout the Greek neighborhood. They will be judged Friday afternoon, and public presentations will be given regularly during "ExCYtement in the Streets" from 8 to 10 p.m. that night.

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Board president suggests options for meeting mid-year reversion

Regent David Miles outlined options Iowa State leaders might consider in developing a plan to cut \$24.5 million from this year's budget. The plan is due by Oct. 29.

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Business Café facelift

Beginning Nov. 19, the Business Café in Gerdin will close for a seven-week renovation and expansion.

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Christie Vilsack and Jean Parsons

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Arts & events*As You Like It***Shakespearean comedy**

The Aquila Theatre Company's interpretation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* comes to Stephens Oct. 22.

Honors & awards

- Alfred Blackmer, Lauren Christian, Mike Duffy, Neil Harl, Paul Lasley, John Lawrence and Bob Wisner
- Robert C. Brown, Tristan Brown and Dermot Hayes

Sustainability celebration

A student-led celebration of National Campus Sustainability Day is Oct. 21 outside Parks Library. Displays and free bike tune-ups are among the planned activities.

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Rent-a-book

University Book Store will apply a \$300,000 award from the U.S. Department of Education toward the launch of a textbook rental program at Iowa State.

Solar Team still competing

Iowa State's team is running in the top 10 in several categories of the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition this week in Washington, D.C. The competition continues through Oct. 18.

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It's still early

Tyler Edwards (right) and Creighton Stifel work on the homecoming lawn display at the Tau Kappa Epsilon house on Ash Avenue Tuesday afternoon. The displays will be judged Friday afternoon and ready for showing during "ExCYtement in the Streets" from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday. There will be public presentations every 15 to 20 minutes. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Board president suggests options for meeting mid-year reversion

by Anne Krapfl

Iowa State leaders have about 14 days to come up with a plan to cut \$24.5 million from the university's current operating budget. The state Board of Regents officially requested that plan during an emergency meeting Oct. 14. It's due on or before the board's next regular meeting on Oct. 29.

The directive comes on the heels of Gov. Chet Culver's Oct. 8 decision to implement a 10 percent across-the-board cut in state funding due to shrinking state revenues.

At Iowa State this year, that 10 percent amounts to \$24.5 million.

"We have a lot of work, a lot of analysis, to do," said president Gregory Geoffroy. He said Iowa State would take all that time to consider the options.

Some guidelines

Board president David Miles asked Geoffroy and the other institution heads to consider these seven options in their planning:

- Temporary salary reductions (and consider whether any proposed reductions should be less for lower-income workers)
- Temporary layoffs, including furloughs, to reduce the number of permanent layoffs required and preserve jobs
- Benefit revisions, including temporary reductions to retirement contributions, or temporary or permanent revisions to other benefit programs
- A "very modest" tuition surcharge for spring semester 2010 (one-time and not a permanent addition to the tuition base)
- Postpone non-essential deferred maintenance and repairs
- Consider where to refocus efforts in a significant way and/or potentially eliminate programs
- Permanent layoffs -- as a last measure if other measures can't completely close the gap, or where it makes sense for the future of an institution

Regent Michael Gartner added an eighth consideration:

- Evaluate selling non-essential assets to meet one-time cuts

Miles directed the institution leaders to work in good faith with all employee groups, students, the governor and legislature in developing their plans. He also asked that "the pain of actions required" be spread across all employee groups.

Hiring freeze on, building moratorium off

Board members unanimously approved a motion to continue Miles' Oct. 8 directive for a hiring freeze at the regent institutions for positions funded from state General Fund appropriations. The freeze will continue until the board approves the institutions' plans to meet the funding reductions.

Miles withdrew his motion for a moratorium on new construction. He noted that the normal regent approval process gives universities and the board the chance to assess the impact of new facilities on operating budgets. And he said this is a consideration the board will look more closely at in the future when it reviews new building proposals.

He said confusion about what projects a moratorium would cover, and the cost to the schools of unrecoverable planning and design expenses also factored in his decision.

The proposals

Miles requested that the budget reduction proposals the universities submit for the board's

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consideration include flexibility and some options, rather than a single, take-it-or-leave-it plan.

"I have tremendous confidence in our institution heads, but we need to have on the table some options -- including 'here's what we also considered but don't favor' -- so we can have a very interactive session on the 29th," he said.

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As You Like It

Shakespearean comedy

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Council asks for budgetary 'tools'

by Erin Rosacker

The executive board of the Professional and Scientific Council called its own emergency meeting of the full council a day before the Oct. 14 state Board of Regents meeting. P&S Council members voted overwhelmingly in favor of a pair of motions that recommend budget-saving "tools" to administrators.

Most of the discussion centered on a new motion that recommends the availability of furloughs for P&S staff to meet FY10 budget cuts.

"The intent of this particular motion is to request and recommend that furloughs again be considered as a tool for budget reduction for P&S staff, even if complications preclude their use for faculty and merit staff," said Kevin Kane, P&S vice president for university planning and budget.

Language in the motion included these supporting arguments:

- P&S staff are adversely impacted because they do not have tenure or union contract protection
- Nearly 60 percent of P&S staff responding to last spring's survey preferred furloughs to layoffs
- Furloughs would keep experienced staff, avoiding the cost of hiring and training replacements later
- Early implementation would give employees time to financially plan for reductions to their salaries

In answer to questions about implementation, timing and other specifics not contained in the motion, Kane said its intent is to "leave off any details ... and have our voice heard before the regents meet tomorrow."

The motion passed, 38-4.

More RIOs

The second motion, which passed unanimously, was a recommendation to implement another retirement incentive option (RIO) in 2010. This motion also failed to contain specifics -- such as suggested age or length of service requirements -- and a retirement deadline was eliminated.

"I think it takes the detail out of it, but more, it says that we really need and really want this," said Camille Schroeder, council president. "This is a different day, and a different year and a different budget. I think we have to act based on what we know."

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An Iowa State original

Former Iowa first lady Christie Vilsack will attend the 2009 World Food Prize Laureate Award ceremony and dinner at the state capitol Oct. 15 in a themed jacket created on campus. Her silk jacket features a pattern of tomatoes and leaves, and is the work of Jean Parsons and Natalie Sanger Gendle, faculty members in the apparel, education studies and hospitality management department. With a new state-of-the-art digital printer, Parsons and Gendle designed and constructed the jacket.

Parsons, pictured above with Vilsack at a final fitting Tuesday afternoon, said a key challenge was creating an artistic, evening garment with a pattern not normally used for formal attire. Gendle created literal and abstract interpretations of tomatoes from photos taken by Parsons at local farmers' markets and vegetable gardens.

In addition to the dressy jacket, Parsons and Gendle are making Vilsack a casual jacket and tote with veggie photos as the pattern. Vilsack requested the pieces as conversation starters to allow her to transition easily into discussion about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Know your farmer, know your food" campaign. Vilsack's husband, former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack, currently serves as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Nominations sought for 2010 university awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2010 Iowa State University awards. All awards will be presented at next fall's university convocation on Sept. 20, 2010.

Electronic forms and instructions for submitting [faculty awards](#) and [P&S awards](#) are online at the provost's web site.

New awards

Two awards will be presented next fall for the first time to either individuals or teams of employees:

- ISU Award for Achievement in Economic Development in Iowa, which recognizes tenured or tenure-track faculty or P&S staff for outstanding ISU-based achievements in advancing the economic development of the state. Up to two awards per year are available.
- ISU Award for Achievement in Intellectual Property, which recognizes tenured or tenure-track faculty or P&S staff who have made important IP contributions at the university, preferably leading to patents and licenses. One award per year is available.

Timeline

Award nominations are due in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost by Feb. 22, 2010. However, colleges, departments or other units involved in the process set earlier deadlines, including these college deadlines:

- Agriculture and Life Sciences: Nov. 19
- Business: Jan. 25, 2010
- Design: Feb. 1, 2010
- Engineering: Feb. 5, 2010
- Human Sciences: Nov. 17
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Dec. 16
- Veterinary Medicine: Jan. 30, 2010

Nominations for all university awards must be electronic and adhere to a format.

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Business Café to close for remodeling

by Paula Van Brocklin

Patrons of the Business Café in the Gerdin Business Building will have to temporarily find a new place to grab a cup of coffee, beginning Nov. 19. That's when the café will shut down for a seven-week renovation to enhance its offerings. The café is scheduled to reopen Jan. 11.

The seven-week shutdown should impact students and staff only for four weeks, since renovations will occur during both the Thanksgiving and winter breaks.

Updates involve expanding the existing space to the west to make room for an espresso machine and a full line of specialty drinks (like smoothies and frappes).

"Right now, we only have space to offer brewed coffee [in the Business Café]," said Brittney Rutherford, communications specialist with the residence department.

The renovation also includes a new cold case for refrigerated items, which will allow patrons to grab their own pre-packaged sandwiches.

Rutherford added that the new and improved Business Café will have better traffic flow, and a similar look and feel to other dining facilities around campus, especially Bookends in the library.

The Business Café renovation is a joint effort funded by ISU Dining and the College of Business.

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Student-led event focuses on campus sustainability

by Erin Rosacker

Iowa State will take part in National Campus Sustainability Day Oct. 21, with events and displays planned in the free speech area outside Parks Library from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Inclement weather would move the event under the library's covered porch.

Chandra Peterson, vice president of the Government of the Student Body and a member of the newly formed Green Umbrella group, is helping organize the day's events.

"This is a student-run initiative," Peterson said. "There are great things going on with student organizations and we wanted to do something to get the word out."

She said Green Umbrella is a GSB initiative that brings in representatives from campus groups dealing with sustainability and other green issues. About 10 different organizations already are part of the new group, which is focusing on awareness and communication.

Many of these student groups will be involved in the campus sustainability day activities, primarily with displays of their green projects and initiatives. Staff from Outdoor Recreation Services will be on hand to provide free bike tune-ups and fittings. A recycling bin for unwanted jeans -- which will be converted into insulation -- also will be available.

"Next year, we hope to make this a lot bigger," Peterson said. "Our goal is to make it a week-long event."

More information about [National Campus Sustainability Day](#) is available online.

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Shakespearean comedy

Shakespeare's *As You Like It* takes the Stephens Auditorium stage Oct. 22 (7:30 p.m.). The New York-based Aquila Theatre Company brings its interpretation of the comedy to Ames -- a modern interpretation that stays true to the original. Tickets are \$37 and \$33 (\$25 for youth, \$20 for students), and available at the Stephens ticket office or through [Ticketmaster](#). *Photo by Lois Greenfield.*

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