



*Approved by the Committee on College and University Governance, May 25, 2016*

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

The report of the investigating committee describes departures from AAUP-supported standards of academic governance evident in the process that resulted in the selection of an independent business consultant as president of the University of Iowa, an appointment made by the state board of regents over the strenuous objections of the faculty. The investigating committee found that, in contrast to historical practice at the university, which had been to involve faculty fully in presidential searches, the board's leadership had engineered the search to identify a figure from the business world who was congenial to its image of "transformative leadership." Once the regents identified such a person, what followed was at best an illusion of an open, honest search.

After the chair of the presidential search committee disbanded the twenty-one-member committee that had included seven faculty members, the regents appointed their preferred candidate, who was far less qualified than three other semi-finalists, each of whom held senior administrative positions in institutions of higher education and had strong academic credentials as well as support from the faculty and other members of the campus community. Following the appointment of the new president, the faculty senate voted no confidence in the board of regents for its "blatant disregard for the shared nature of university governance."

As the investigating committee observed, the case under investigation appears to be part of a broader emerging crisis in US higher education, which, in the committee's words, "is occasioned by headstrong, thoughtless action by politically appointed regents who lack any respect for the faculties of the institutions over which they preside." The Committee on College and University Governance finds that the Board of Regents of the state of Iowa, in selecting the chief administrative officer of the University of Iowa, seriously infringed Association-supported standards of college and university governance. The committee recommends to the 102nd annual meeting that the University of Iowa be added to the Association's list of institutions sanctioned for substantial non-compliance with standards of academic government. The sanction is primarily directed against the Iowa Board of Regents.