UNI’s plans for FY10 ARRA funds
FY10 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
www.recovery.iowa.gov

ARRA Funding: Received $12,376,464 million in one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding this year.

Expenditures to Date through October 31, 2009: $3.7 million

FY 2010 State Appropriation Reduction: Since July 2008, state appropriations to UNI have been cut $23 million or 23%. One-time ARRA funding has helped.

Followed are the four guiding principles of ARRA that UNI officials followed:

The overall goals of the ARRA are to stimulate the economy in the short term and to invest in education and other essential public services to ensure the long-term economic health of our nation. Four principles guide the distribution and use of ARRA funds:

1. **Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs.** The Department is distributing ARRA funds quickly to avert layoffs and create jobs. States, local educational agencies (LEAs) and IHEs are urged to move rapidly to develop plans for using the funds, consistent with the ARRA’s reporting and accountability requirements, and promptly to begin spending funds to help drive the nation’s economic recovery.

2. **Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform.** ARRA funds should be used to improve student achievement and help close the achievement gap.

3. **Ensure transparency and accountability and report publicly on the use of funds.** To prevent fraud and abuse, support the most effective uses of ARRA funds, and accurately measure and track results, ARRA recipients must publicly report on how funds are used. Due to the unprecedented scope and importance of this investment, ARRA funds are subject to additional and more rigorous reporting requirements than normally apply to grant recipients.

4. **Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff.”** The ARRA is expected to be a one-time infusion of substantial new resources. These funds should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires.

In addition to the four ARRA principles, UNI implemented the following ten principles.

1. Projects shall not exceed expending the allocation of their ARRA funds.
2. The funds for the project must be encumbered (committed) by June 30, 2010.
3. The funds are “one-time” funds, to be spent in FY2010.
4. All projects will be monitored for progress by the appropriate vice president.
5. Reports will be required for each project. (This could include quarterly and annual reports.)
6. All federal and state reporting requirements must be adhered to.
7. For each project, the vice president will need to be prepared to report on the benefits, cost savings, and payback of the project as appropriate.
8. Any FY10 state appropriations cut may have an impact on these decisions. The University budget is such that any change to our FY10 state appropriations will affect other budgetary decisions.
9. All projects will be audited to ensure accountability, compliance with reporting requirements, etc.
10. Modifications to the maximum funding levels for these projects may be changed throughout FY10.
Note: Prohibition on Use of ARRA Funds

None of the funds may be used for athletic facilities, golf courses, swimming pools, or other facilities used for athletic contests, religious worship, exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public. Cannot be used for new construction. Cannot be used to restore a rainy day fund.

Governor Culver’s Key priorities

1. Retain jobs
2. Funds for higher education shall be used to limit the increase of (FY10) tuition and fees.
3. Capitals in excess of $1 million must have Board of Regents approval.
4. Modernization, renovation, or repair of IHE facilities that are primarily used for instruction, research, or student housing, including modernization, renovation, and repairs that are consistent with a recognized green-building rating system.

Primary Categories of the Committed Uses of ARRA Funds

1. Transitional Funding for Adjunct Instructors, Part-Time Wages, and Divisional Support ($1.6 M)
2. Fund Positions and Transitional Costs of Early Retirement Incentive Program ($3.7 M)
   a. Use of ARRA funds allowed UNI to fund employees who will become early retirees by January 1, 2010. (89 general funded employees. 118 total ERIP participants.)
   b. Allowed UNI to retain employees.
3. Enhance Classroom educational technology, training, and student learning ($1.18 M)
   a. Enhance wireless access and improve IT infrastructure.
   b. Provide funds for enhancing teaching, research, curriculum development.
   c. Improve classroom multi-media capabilities and equipment.
4. Student Information System ($3.85 M)
   a. Implementing a new student information system that has been the university’s top system enhancement priority for the past five years. UNI has needed a new system for past 10-15 years.
   b. The system will enhance student record keeping and tracking, advising, recruitment. The system will be seamless, efficient, and paperless.
5. Fund Projects Directly Related to Energy Conservation, Sustainability ($320,000)
   a. Enhance energy efficiency, improve sustainability efforts, reduce carbon footprint on campus
   b. Improve recycling
   c. Conduct building energy audits, retro-commissioning studies
6. Implement Recommendations from Foundation of Excellence Initiative ($100,000)
   a. Implement efforts to help transition students to college
7. Implement recommendations from the Cost Containment Task Force and Revenue Enhancement Task Force ($389,000)
   a. Evaluate space efficiency and consolidate spaces
   b. Enhance student recruitment
   c. Implement paperless systems
   d. Improve address verification systems
8. **Initiatives to Enhance Accountability, Reporting, Risk Management ($206,000)**
   
a. Provide equipment and technology support for portable Emergency Management Operation System.
b. Improve art storage area to comply with industry standards.

**Estimated Impact of ARRA Fund Use at UNI on Job Savings and Job Creations**

118 Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) positions were supported during fy2010. Approximately fifty-five temporary instructors are being paid from ARRA funds to teach courses in the fall and spring semester. An additional 4 jobs were saved or created by the availability of ARRA funds, and several part-time positions were kept intact because of the ARRA funding.