The Iowa Public Radio board of directors held its monthly meeting on April 17, 2007, at Morrill Hall on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames. Members present for the meeting were Chair Art Neu, Vice Chair Kay Runge, Steve Parrott and IPR executive director Cindy Browne. Board member Steve Carignan participated by phone. Board member Warren Madden was absent. Also present were IPR Directors Joan Kjaer, Robin Fraser, Todd Mundt, Wayne Jarvis and Don Wirth. Des Moines real estate broker Peter Brown and Steve Firman of the Friends of KUNI also attended.

Chair Neu opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence in memory of the students, faculty and staff who were killed in the tragedy on the Virginia Tech campus.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Office Space
Peter Brown presented the board with a spreadsheet of office options for IPR, including the Lovejoy Building, 1300 Walnut, 300 East Locust, and Capital Center II. He also presented board members with copies of a business plan for the Lovejoy Building, as had been requested at a previous meeting.

Cindy Browne noted that the funding for the construction costs involved in the new office space would come from a proposed appropriation from the State Legislature. She said that approval of that appropriation request could come by the end of the month. After discussion of space needs, construction cost estimates, and the various pros and cons of the options, Runge moved that the board seek estimates for construction costs for each of the sites. Parrott seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Browne reported that Kent Sovern of the Higher Education Collaborative is working on behalf of the tenants of the Pappajohn Higher Education Center to see what can be done about leases if the Des Moines School District takes over the space. No final decisions have been made, although Sovern said he hopes to conclude negotiations by the time he leaves the Collaborative at the end of June. IPR’s goal is to be able to leave the Higher Ed Center before its lease ends in September 2009 and to have the Des Moines Schools assume the IPR lease if it takes over IPR space.

Financial report
Wirth reported a drop in the number of donors for the three stations for FY07, which reflects both a nationwide trend and the loss of former KUNI donors who are fans of folk and Triple A Adult music, which was reduced when the news and information service was unified in January. Underwriting will be down by about $40,000 at WOI for the FY07 fiscal year, but that will be offset by an increase of more than $100,000 at WSUI/KSUI. He also noted that the stations would have to tap into their reserve accounts for FY07 and FY08 but that they should be contributing back to the reserves in FY09.

Browne said the stations are planning a single, combined on-air fund drive for the fall of 2007. There are a number of complications that need to be worked out first, such as advance mailings. If those issues cannot be resolved, the fall fund drive will proceed with each station operating independently as they have in the past. The other goal of the fall fund drive is to keep the stations’ business operations going as normal during the fund drive.
Development update
Fraser presented his goals for fund-raising for FY08. He proposed aiming to increase membership funding by $480,000, underwriting by $220,000 and major gifts by $100,000. He noted that the membership goal would be a “stretch” and said he expected that major gifts could actually bring in between $300,000 and $400,000. Carignan suggested changing the goals to reflect realistic benchmarks. It was agreed to change the membership goal to an increase of $380,000 and to set a goal of increasing major gifts by $200,000.

Management agreement
The final version of the management agreement with the three universities has been sent to the president and their legal counsels, Browne reported. The Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the agreements at its May 1 meeting in Iowa City, she noted.

Liability insurance
Wirth presented liability insurance quotes totaling $13,625. The various insurances include broadcasters’ liability, commercial general liability, directors’ and officers’ liability, employment practices liability, commercial auto liability, property insurance, an employee dishonest bond, and umbrella/excess liability. Parrott moved and Runge seconded approval. The motion carried unanimously.

FY09 State Appropriations Request
Browne advised the board that IPR’s state appropriations request for FY09 would be revised to recognize new IPR stations that have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission. It will be difficult to project those costs until we know what federal funds are available for constructing the new stations, she said. Once that information is determined, a new state appropriations request will be developed and shared with the Regents and the Regents Board office.

Carignan moved for adjournment at 3:15 p.m. Runge seconded and the motion carried unanimously.