The Iowa Public Radio Board of Directors met Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 1:10 p.m. via conference call. Members present were Art Neu, chair; Kay Runge, Steve Carignan, Steve Parrott, and executive director Cindy Browne. Also in attendance were Joan Kjaer (WSUI/KSUI), Wayne Jarvis (KUNI), Don Wirth (WOI), Diana Gonzalez (Board of Regents office) and Steve Firman.

Chair Neu called the meeting to order. Carignan moved and Parrott seconded approval of the minutes of the April 24 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial report
Wirth reported that budgets for all three stations appear to be within projections. He noted that the construction of a new tower, which will be used by two IPR stations (WOI and KUNI), is underway by Iowa Public Television. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is funding 75% of the project cost; IPR’s portion of the project cost is $130,000.

Special mention was made of the underwriting revenue at WSUI/KSUI, which is well ahead of projections.

Community Service Grants
Executive director Browne explained that the community service grant funding would decrease for IPR stations for fiscal year 2006-07. These are the major public radio grants funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Final figures are not in yet, but Wirth said that proposed budgets for FY07 would likely have to be reduced.

Wirth made these points with respect to the CSG funding:
• All three IPR stations are at Level 5 ($65,000) for a base CSG grant.
• Funding through a return on investment portion of the grant will be down for FY07, Browne said. This amount is divided among eligible stations base on a percentage of CPB funds remaining and based on a station’s ability to obtain non-CPB funding. That amount of money is being reduced by nearly one-half of one percent.
• Funding for the CSG grants is also being reduced because there are new public radio stations, which means that CSG funds must be distributed among more stations.

Neu asked if it is possible to learn what other public stations are receiving in CSG grants. The answer appears to be yes.

Browne also noted that there is a possibility of Congressional action to reduce CPB funding. She said that government relations personnel from both the CPB and from National Public Radio would notify IPR and other public radio stations so that they could alert supporters, who would be asked to contact their senators and representatives to encourage full federal support for public broadcasting.

University budgets
Wirth reported that ISU funding is expected to remain stable at $600,000. He noted that the ISU salary policy for FY07 calls for 2.5 percent raises with state funding and additional internal reallocations to bring average salary increases to 3 percent.
UNI will be cutting KUNI’s funding by $200,000 to $250,000, Jarvis reported. There was no discussion of the station’s absorbing costs for salary increases, however. Jarvis noted that the Friends of KUNI have $2.6 million invested, but that would be used in four years if UNI funding does not increase.

WSUI/KSUI had a reduction of $7,000 in University of Iowa support, but that will be offset with University funding to pay for an average of 3.5 percent pay hikes.

Senior team recruitment
Browne said she would make a recommendation for salary ranges for senior team positions. She asked whether that recommendation needed to be approved by the board. After some discussion, it was agreed that the board should approve. Browne said she would arrange a telephonic board meeting for that purpose.

Browne reported that she expects to be conducting the first round of telephone interviews with candidates for the senior team positions in early June.

IPR Fundraising and Community Engagement
Browne, Kjaer and Jarvis reported that meetings with the WSUI/KSUI advisory board and the Friends of KUNI, held May 9 and 11, respectively, went well.

Speaking for the Friends of KUNI, Steve Firman said that the group is ready to expand its role if requested. The Friends executive committee was to meet May 26 and the entire group would meet the following week to define “who owns what,” although he also noted that UNI apparently owns all the funds. Stewardship of private giving is important, but the real value of the Friends and the WSUI/KSUI advisory board is involvement with the stations, Browne said. She credited Firman with guiding the Friends of KUNI through “rocky shores.”

IPR Corporate Structure
Wirth said he is working with attorney Wayne Reames on filing with the Internal Revenue Service. Neu said there was nothing new to report on proposed management agreements with the three universities. He said he would schedule a meeting with Regents staff to discuss the issues.

Parrott moved and Runge seconded for adjournment. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Parrott
Secretary