

Precedence for regents' interest in UI presidency

By **Lyle Muller**

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IOWA CITY — This isn't the first time the state Board of Regents sent a University of Iowa presidential search committee back to the drawing board.

Some of the circumstances were different, but the regents were at odds with some faculty, staff and students in late 1987 over how to proceed when finding a successor to former UI President James O. Freedman.

It happened when the presidential search committee produced only two finalists for the regents' consideration. The regents had asked for six.

After interviewing the two finalists on a December Saturday in Des Moines, the regents sent the two names back to the search committee and said they wanted four more finalists.

One of the finalists, they added, should be Provost and Interim President Richard

Remington.

Critics were upset, claiming the regents were manipulating the search. Then-Regents President Marvin Pomerantz reminded them that the authority for selecting the president rested with the regents, not the search committee.

One of the finalists, Nils Hasselmo, then provost at the University of Arizona, opted out after the regents extended the search, and he eventually became president at the University of Minnesota. Three more names were added to the list.

One of those was Hunter Rawlings III, who eventually was appointed president and was at the UI from 1988 to 1995 before becoming president at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., the post Skorton now holds.

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