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Members of the Board,

Please add me to the agenda for your meeting on June 8th, 2011 in Iowa City. I would like to present a petition to change Regents' operating policy to protect the health of residents in university-owned housing.

As a long-time employee of this institution, one who has sung its praises in the halls of Congress and all around the developing world, it is with great regret that I raise these issues, but I am convinced that the business practices of the University of Iowa need to change so it takes full responsibility to protect the health and safety of its tenants. I want tenants of Regent-owned properties to have the right to ask state, county, and city inspection services to respond to complaints and issues citations, since the university has proved to be neither willing nor trustworthy.

After sever injury to my health from poor building maintenance in 2008-2009, I have followed a rigorous set of procedures to get satisfaction from the UI Business Office, my dean, the University Ombudsperson, the university's legal office, and the president. None have had the ability to help. The latter have simply brushed off the issue. I'm given to understand that this ignore-them-until-they-go-away sort of treatment is an intentional policy of the legal office. In December 2009 I asked the State Ombudsperson to intervene and their representative responded that real change would require Regents action.

In 2010, before my option to filing a claim expired, I filed a claim with the State Appeal Board. Months later, in December, they offered a fraction of my modest claim for damages. I rejected the offer.

Many of the details of my conundrum are in the attached copy of my claim to the State Board of Appeals. Others, including pictures and the texts of emails, can be found at an intranet Web site that has yet to be released to the public...

<http://www.yahoodrummers.com/219Melrose>

While I was suffering a water and mold-infested house, I contacted Johnson County and Iowa City inspectors and asked them to look into my situation. They replied that the state law prevented this. Later, in his research in to the matter, State Ombudsperson staffer, Bert Dalmer, found this...

"...neither state law nor city ordinance specifically exempts university-owned housing from city inspections. However, the University is relying on a decades-old opinion from the Iowa Attorney General which opines that the state needs to be specifically included in the law to become subject to city inspections."

This is akin to letting the fox guard the chicken coop.

The most distressing thing is this: after damaging my health so seriously by their negligence – seeing the diagnosis from my doctor and witnessing for this first time (after months of complaints) the disgusting state of my basement -- the University of Iowa's Business Office, citing clearance from the experts in Public Health and the UI Health Protection Office (which I have not been able to verify), simply had an unprotected worker paint over the worst of the mold and moved five students into the building the next day. This is contrary to everything I've read about mold remediation and seems to me to be blatantly unethical.

Hence my requests:

- 1.) I be reimbursed for all of my out-of-pocket and future anticipated expenses
- 2.) The Board of Regents changes it policy to allow third-party inspection of Regents-owned residential property.
- 3.) That all leases in the future reflect this right of tenants to seek third-party inspections
- 4.) That tenant handbooks and Web sites include the contact information for the relevant third-party inspectors.
- 5.) That the Board of Regents establishes a mechanism for tenants to appeal directly to the Board when the universities do not respond to complaints about home safety issues.

We have two options for the June 8th public meeting. We can announce a settlement that involves rule changes and full reimbursement, or I can file both a petition with the Board and a lawsuit with the courts that seeks additional damages for the physical and emotional distress this whole misadventure has caused me.

Believe me; I have tried very hard to do the right thing on this matter. Now it is time for the Board of Regents to step up and do the same.

Best regards,

Cliff Missen