AAU NAMES HUNTER RAWLINGS AS PRESIDENT

Appointment of Former President of Cornell, University of Iowa Is Effective June 1

The Association of American Universities (AAU) today announced the appointment of Hunter R. Rawlings III, a former president of Cornell University and the University of Iowa, as its new president. A former chair of the association during his tenure at Cornell, Rawlings was a long-time leader among university presidents and is a distinguished classics scholar.

“We are incredibly fortunate that Hunter is willing to take on this leadership role at AAU at a time when we face significant challenges in Washington, in the states, and on our campuses,” said Carnegie Mellon University President Jared Cohon, who is AAU’s current chair and chaired the search committee for the new president. He called Rawlings “a real leader in higher education who understands from experience the relationships between both public and private universities and their communities and government at the state and national level.”

Rawlings will take the reins of the association of leading research universities on June 1 for a five-year term. Robert M. Berdahl, the current president, who announced his retirement in September, has served as AAU president since 2006.

Rawlings served as Cornell’s president from 1995 to 2003, and as interim president for one year between 2005 and 2006. He served as president of the University of Iowa from 1988 to 1995. Prior to the University of Iowa, Rawlings spent 18 years at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he was a faculty member, chairman of the classics department, associate vice chancellor for instruction, and then vice president for academic affairs for the University of Colorado system. He graduated from Haverford College and received a PhD in classics from Princeton University.

Rawlings is a member of the National Research Council’s Committee on Research Universities, which was formed at the request of members of Congress to make recommendations for ensuring the long-term strength of the nation’s research universities.

AAU is an association of 61 leading public and private research universities in the United States as well as two in Canada. The association’s 61 U.S. universities perform nearly 60 percent of university-based research funded by the federal government and award more than one-half of U.S. doctoral degrees. More than one million undergraduates and 500,000 graduate and professional students currently attend AAU member institutions.

“For more than half a century,” said Rawlings, “the partnership between the federal government and our nation’s research universities has helped to produce technologies that have

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transformed our economy and society, scholarship that illuminates our history and culture, and graduates who are among the nation’s and the world’s leaders in every field – science and engineering, business, government, the military, the arts, and more.”

He continued, “AAU’s first responsibility is to work with government to ensure that this relationship remains strong so that we can make our contribution to building a better America and a better world. This will be especially challenging at a time of potentially severe fiscal restraint and increasing demands on our universities. But to continue to attract the best talent from around the nation and the world, and to produce the discoveries, knowledge, and leadership that we do, we need to ensure that the federal government provides the kinds of policies and support that will help our universities fulfill their missions.”

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 61 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.