

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Advancement

Date of Meeting: November 16, 2010

Agenda Item: Legislative Issues

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Review of state legislative affairs and issues.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Mary Davenport, director of government relations

Christopher Halling, system director for student financial aid

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

Election outcomes

2011 legislative session preview

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INFORMATION ITEM

Legislative Issues

State Office Election Outcomes

Minnesota will have a new governor, but the question may be when. Mark Dayton unofficially leads Republican Tom Emmer by 8,856 votes. County canvassing boards meet to certify county results November 5 -12. If the narrow margin holds to less than one-half of one percent, a recount is triggered automatically. If the recount is not completed before a new governor is scheduled to take office on January 3, 2011, Governor Pawlenty has stated that he intends to serve until a new governor is sworn in.

The Minnesota House of Representatives will have 36 new members when the 87th legislative session begins on January 4, 2011. There are 33 new Republican members and 3 new DFL members. Republicans now hold a 72-62 edge. Again, final numbers will not be certified until the State Canvassing Board meets later this month. Three House races may require a recount: King Banaian (R), who leads Carol Lewis (DFL) by 10 votes in District 15B; Kelby Woodard (R), who leads incumbent David Bly (DFL) by 31 votes in District 25B; and Rich Murray (R), who leads incumbent Robin Brown (DFL) by 58 votes in District 27A.

Members-elect include:

Diane Anderson, R-Eagan
King Banaian, R- St. Cloud*
Bob Barrett, R-Shafer
Mike Benson, R-Rochester
Kurt Bills, R-Rosemount
Roger Crawford, R-Mora
Kurt Daudt, R-Crown
Sondra Erickson, R-Princeton
Dan Fabian, R-Roseau
Mary Franson, R-Alexandria
Kerry Gauthier, DFL-Duluth
Marion Greene, DFL-Minneapolis
Glenn Gruenhagen, R-Glencoe
David Hancock, R-Bemidji
Andrea Kieffer, R-Woodbury
Deb Kiel, R-Crookston
John Kriesel, R-Cottage Grove
Ernie Leidiger, R-Mayer
Mike LeMieur, R-Little Falls
Kathy Lohmer, R-Lake Elmo

Pat Mazorol, R-Bloomington
Joe McDonald, R-Delano
Carolyn McElpatrick, R-Deer River
Rena Moran, DFL-St. Paul
Rich Murray, R-Albert Lea*
Pam Myhra, R-Burnsville
Tim O'Driscoll, R-Sartell
Branden Petersen, R-Andover
Duane Quam, R-Byron
Linda Runbeck, R-Circle Pines
Joe Schomacker, R-Luverne
Kirk Stensrud, R-Eden Prairie
Chris Swedzinski, R-Ghent
Bruce Vogel, R-Willmar
Doug Wardlow, R-Eagan
Kelby Woodard, R-Belle Plaine*

*Subject to recount based on unofficial Secretary of State numbers.

2011 Legislative Session Key Dates

December 2, 2010	November Economic Forecast Released
December 6, 2010	Leadership Council Legislative Session Orientation
January 3, 2011	New Governor Takes Oath of Office
January 4, 2011	2011 Legislative Session Convenes
January 2011	Governor's State of the State Address
February 15, 2011	Deadline for Governor's Budget Recommendations
Late February 2011	February Economic Forecast Released
May 23, 2011	Last Day of Session

Federal Office Election Outcomes

When the 112th Congress convenes January 4, 2011, Minnesota will send a new member to the House of Representatives. Chip Cravaack (R) will represent Minnesota's 8th Congressional District, replacing Jim Oberstar who began his service in 1975. Mr. Cravaack won the seat with 48.2 percent of the vote, compared to 46.5 percent for Congressman Oberstar. Both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate will have Republican majorities. In the House, there will be at least 239 Republicans and 185 Democrats (11 races to be determined) to total 435 seats; the 100 Senate seats will be filled by 51 Democrats, including two independents who caucus with the Democrats, and 47 Republicans. There are two close Senate races that need to be resolved.

Gubernatorial Interviews

As reported in September, all three of the gubernatorial candidates participated in separate interviews with the goal to increase familiarity with gubernatorial candidate perspectives on higher education, especially as related to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The target audience included students and other constituents, as well as stakeholders of the system. The interviews received over 3,400 views. The three major gubernatorial candidates offered their views about tuition, budget priorities, jobs for graduates, online learning and other higher education issues in videotaped interviews with Chair, Scott Thiss and student leader, Caitlin Stene. Interviews were made available on the internet in both the individual candidate full length interview versions and with all three candidates responding to topical issues.

Anticipated 2011 Legislative Session Issues

The 2011 legislative session will convene January 4, 2011. In addition to the 2012-2013 Biennial operating budget and possible bonding bill, legislative initiatives affecting Minnesota State Colleges and Universities *may* come up during the 2011 session:

1. Financial aid – state grant shortfall
2. Performance incentives
3. Senior citizen age change from 62 to 66 for administration fees only course enrollment
4. On line education
5. Career and technical education
6. The Clinical Coordination Project (TCCP) to streamline nursing practicum placements
7. Transfer/Students First progress
8. Mandate reduction
9. Higher education delivery/capacity in Minnesota
10. Teacher education

It is also anticipated that a supplemental state capital/bonding bill may be introduced and include system projects that didn't make it into the final bonding bill as a result of veto.

2011 Legislative Advocacy

Various advocacy strategies will be used throughout the session to support the system's budget request. The overarching goals of the 2011 Legislative session are to:

1. Increase the awareness and appreciation of the system's contributions to the state by lawmakers, legislative staff and those who influence them.
2. Obtain the maximum possible amount of state funding for the priorities outlined in the budget request approved by the Board of Trustees, and

The Government Relations team in the Office of the Chancellor lead the advocacy efforts, but all the divisions within the Office of the Chancellor play important and active roles. College and university presidents and their campus communities are an integral part of the process for building support for the 2011 legislative priorities. Constituency groups are also important and are encouraged to become engaged in support of the 2012-2013 biennial operating budget request through the Friends Advocacy Network and other activities.