

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: April 20, 2011

Agenda Item: 2012-2014 System Action Plan

| | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Policy Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Approvals Required by Policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Approvals | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information | | | |

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

The Board of Trustees periodically develops a System Action Plan that is based on the Strategic Plan and identifies a select number of priority items for increased attention and activity.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Scott R. Olson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The following are primary topics for discussion-

- Review of the two selected areas for action
- Initial direction to guide further development and a timeline for the action areas
- Approval of the 2012-14 Action Plan

Background Information: The Board has developed several Action Plans usually one year in length and often approved in the summer. The FY12-14 Action Plan develops a multi-year agenda prior to the start of the FY12 academic year which enables institutions to better incorporate features of the System Action Plan into campus planning. The two priority areas selected are based on initial input from presidents, corresponding discussion at the January Board of Trustees study session and subsequent review by the Leadership Council and the Board of Trustees.

- *Student Success* – Develop a *Student Success Agenda* that advances Minnesota as the most educated state in the nation.
- *Financial sustainability* – Advance a *Fiscal Sustainability Agenda* that draws on the collaborative and creative capacity of the System.

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

| |
|----------------------------|
| ACTION ITEM |
| 2012-14 SYSTEM ACTION PLAN |

BACKGROUND

The System Action Plan focuses on two key issues in the current environment and provides opportunities for a shared and strategic agenda for the system. These two focus areas grow out of and align with four of five strategic directions in the current system strategic plan, *Designing the Future*.

Priority One – Develop a *Student Success Agenda* that advances Minnesota as the most educated state in the nation, aligns with strategic directions one and two

- Increase access, opportunity and success
- Achieve high-quality learning through a commitment to academic excellence and accountability

Priority Two – Advance a *Fiscal Sustainability Agenda* that draws on the collaborative and creative capacity of the System, aligns with strategic directions four and five

- Innovate to meet current and future educational needs
- Sustain financial viability during changing economic and market conditions

Only strategic direction three – Provide learning opportunities, programs and services to enhance the global economic competitiveness of the state, its regions and its people – is not directly addressed by this action plan.

The Action Plan strategies will include the following activities:

- Engage the Board of Trustees in considering the context around the focus areas, setting initial direction and goals, and in reviewing progress and emergent policy issues
- Advance opportunities for institutions to collectively identify and share strategies and identify major policy issues for consideration by system leadership
- Provide a common focus to align and prioritize current and emergent Office of the Chancellor and system activities
- Engage faculty, administration, staff and external stakeholders in development of innovative and collaborative strategies to achieve major goals

Despite the serious fiscal challenges facing the state and the system, there is renewed interest and recognition that a more educated citizenry is essential for the future well-being of the state and its people. These challenges require us to focus the system on educational achievement and on more effective and efficient use of resources. As the system of access and opportunity, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities has made significant strides and must continue to provide flexible and high quality learning options to a diverse student population. The System Action Plan articulates opportunities to create greater alignment and engage the collaborative capacity of the system to respond to these challenges.

System Action Plan Focus Areas and Related Implementation Strategies

Action One: Develop a *Student Success Agenda* that advances Minnesota as the most educated state in the nation. Actions to achieve this goal include partnering to improve K-12 preparedness, serving under-represented students, and meeting the needs of working adult learners. Several current initiatives are in place to support this goal and align with system strategic plan goals. However, this Action Plan will focus on high school to college transitions with the goal of improving readiness for college and college level work. To accomplish this each stakeholder group within the system will be engaged in the coming months:

- a. The Board of Trustees, in consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups, will consider the major issues and other context for setting policy directions and goals. (Fall 2011)
- b. System institutions will engage in strategies for improved student success, sharing of effective and collaborative practices, and identification of major policy issues requiring system leadership and summarize these in an Action Plan Response. (Spring/Summer 2011)
- c. The Office of the Chancellor will facilitate dialogue among system stakeholder groups, sharing of effective strategies in recruitment, retention, and success, and identify opportunities and challenges for system policy leadership. (ongoing)
- d. The Board of Trustees will advance a common agenda with leaders from the state's other educational providers that results in improved readiness for college and college level work.
- e. The Board of Trustees will set and monitor achievement of agreed upon goals. (Fall 2011 and ongoing)

Action Two: Advance a *Fiscal Sustainability Agenda* that draws on the collaborative and creative capacity of the System. The system will re-imagine higher education for Minnesota to align with the fiscal realities and future direction of higher education. To accomplish this:

- a. The Board of Trustees, in consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups, will consider the major issues and other context for setting policy directions and goals. (Fall 2011)
- b. System institutions will engage in sharing strategies to respond to the fiscal challenges, opportunities for advancing collaboration and leveraging of limited resources, and identification of major policy issues requiring system leadership and summarize these in an Action Plan response. (Spring/Summer 2011)
- c. The system will engage current consultation groups and other networks of faculty, administration and staff in exploring creative means for providing quality and flexible programs and services for students and employers. (ongoing)
- d. The Office of the Chancellor will facilitate opportunities for program collaboration and efficient administrative and technological practices. (ongoing)
- e. The Board of Trustees will set and monitor achievement of agreed upon goals. (Fall 2011 and ongoing)

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the 2012-14 System Action Plan.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the 2012-14 System Action Plan.