

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Advancement

**Date of Meeting:** January 18, 2011

**Agenda Item:** State and Federal Legislative Update

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 and federal legislative affairs and issues.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Mary Davenport, Director of Government Relations

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

State legislative activity

Federal legislative activity

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

**State and Federal Legislative Update**

**STATE**

**87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session underway**

The House and Senate convened the 2011 session on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The House will have 36 new members; 33 new Republicans and 3 new Democrats. The Republicans are now in the majority with a 72-62 split. The Senate has 24 new members; 21 new Republican members and 3 new DFL members. For the first time since 1972, the Republicans now hold the majority in the Senate by a split of 37-30. A number of new legislator visits have been made and new legislator visits continue to be scheduled.

**Upcoming 2011 Legislative Session Key Dates/Events**

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

The House Higher Education Policy and Finance committee is scheduled to meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15 p.m. In the Senate, the Higher Education committee will meet Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Trustees were invited to attend the system's first hearing in the House Higher Education committee on Thursday, Jan. 13, and the system's first Senate Higher Education committee hearing scheduled for Monday, Jan. 24 (3:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Capitol, Room 107). These first two hearings are overview hearings designed to introduce members to the system. A budget presentation will come at a later date.

**Governor Dayton first days in office**

After being sworn into office on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Dayton said he plans to focus on three priorities; jobs, balancing the budget fairly, and improving public services. The Governor's first major speech was made at the Minnesota Chamber's annual Session Priorities dinner on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Governor Dayton told the group that he shared the Chamber's goals of creating more jobs and streamlining government and reviewed a number of statistics related to Minnesota's tax and business climate. The governor also called upon the business community to partner with their local Minnesota State Colleges and Universities campuses in support of higher education.

## **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 training, licensure and evaluation

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.

## **Legislative updates and resources available**

You may check the government relations Web site throughout the upcoming session for further information and resources. A blog, Facebook page and Twitter page is also available:

- Government Relations Web site: <http://www.govtrelations.mnscu.edu/>
- Government Relations Blog: <http://mnscufan.blogspot.com/2010/05/policy-bill-passes-budget-talks.html>
- Government Relations Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Minnesota-State-Colleges-and-Universities/110872937120>
- Government Relations Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mnscufan>

## **FEDERAL**

### **Congress end-of-year activity**

Congress passed a continuing funding resolution that will provide funds until March 4, 2011 at the fiscal year 2010 funding levels for most government programs. For higher education, the continuing resolution funds the Pell Grant program for the entire year and covers the fiscal year 2010 shortfall. This funding level will ensure that the maximum Pell Grant award remains at \$5,550 for academic year 2011-2012.

In other end-of-year activity, the DREAM Act legislation never reached the Senate for a vote after failing to get the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster. An amendment to the Trade Adjustment Act expands program eligibility for the Community College and career Training Grant Program to individuals eligible for unemployment insurance, who are likely to be eligible for unemployment insurance or who have exhausted their unemployment insurance.

## **112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

On Wednesday, January 5, all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives were sworn in, and 13 new U.S. Senators took the oath of office as a result of the November elections.

While the 2011 State of the Union Address is scheduled for January 25, 2011, President Obama will delay the delivery of his fiscal year 2012 budget by about a week until after February 14.

### **Minnesota retains 8 congressional seats**

The U.S. Census Bureau announced the 2012 reapportionment results from the 2010 census and Minnesota did retain eight congressional seats.

### **Association of Community College Trustees**

The ACCT 2011 Community College National Legislative Summit is scheduled for February 13-15, 2011 in Washington DC. Minnesota congressional member visits are being planned.