

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Advancement

Date of Meeting: June 21, 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):

Dr. Mary Davenport, executive 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

The May 23 closing date for the 2011 legislative session passed with no budget resolution in place. Governor Dayton vetoed all nine budget bills and returned the bills along with veto messages outlining areas of both agreement and concern. In his veto message for the higher education bill, the Governor noted:

- Choices made are a reflection of values and priorities.
- Our college and universities are part of what makes Minnesota great.
- A highly –skilled and educated workforce are part of what makes Minnesota great.
- Deep cuts result in layoffs of faculty, tuition increases and fewer course offerings for students.
- The 14% cut to MnSCU is too extreme.
- At the bill’s funding level, Minnesota would have a harder time providing employers with employees who have the skills and education they require.
- The total appropriation leaves both the University of Minnesota and MnSCU with substantially lower levels of state funding at the same time they are serving 50,000 more students.
- The combination of reduced funding and tuition caps included in the bill would unwisely limit the systems' abilities to manage the severe funding reductions.
- The proper entity to make final tuition decisions for MnSCU is the MnSCU's Board of Trustees.
- The bill is returned with hope that there can be a compromise that demonstrates commitment to students and higher education in Minnesota.

FEDERAL

Congress continues their work to set fiscal year 2012 budget. The House continues to make progress on moving their appropriation bills through committees and to the House floor. The Senate appropriations subcommittees have started to hold hearings. Several hearings in the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training have focused on regulatory overreach in higher education.