

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: March 15, 2011

Agenda Item: 2012-2014 System Action Plan

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

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

The Board of Trustees periodically develop a System Action Plan that is based on the Strategic Plan and highlights a few priority items for attention.

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 overarching action areas
- Initial direction to guide further development of those action areas

Background Information: The Board has developed several Action Plans usually one year in length and often approved in the summer. The intent with this action plan is to develop a multi-year agenda which is in place prior to the start of the academic year. This will enable institutions to better incorporate features of the System Action Plan into campus planning. The following items are based on initial input from presidents and corresponding discussion at the January Board of Trustees study session-

- *Student Success* – P-20 partnerships, focusing on grades 10-14 or 6-14 perhaps instead of the whole P-20 pipeline. Consider student success goals and strategies that focus on recruitment, retention, and completion efforts as well as partnerships with K-12 on student preparedness.
- *Financial sustainability* – Re-imagining higher education in Minnesota including options such as regionalization of support services, bridging the current silos and engaging stakeholders in finding innovative approaches to program collaboration and delivery and identifying related policy issues.
- *System Advocacy* – Working with other higher education providers on advancing the public good for higher education.

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

INFORMATION ITEM
2012-14 SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

BACKGROUND

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

1. Increase access, opportunity and success
2. Achieve high-quality learning through a commitment to academic excellence and accountability
3. Provide learning opportunities, programs and services to enhance the global economic competitiveness of the state, its regions and its people
4. Innovate to meet current and future educational needs
5. Sustain financial viability during changing economic and market conditions

The Action Plan strategies will guide the following types of 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. The Board of Trustees will set and monitor achievement of agreed upon goals.

Action Two: Advance a *Quality and 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.
- 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.
- c. The system will engage current consultation groups and new networks of faculty, administration and staff in exploring creative means for providing quality and flexible programs and services for students and employers.
- d. The Office of the Chancellor will facilitate opportunities for program collaboration and efficient administrative and technological practices.
- e. The Board of Trustees will set and monitor achievement of agreed upon goals.