



Chair Moe, Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am once again sad to not be in person with you all. As you are all aware we are nearing the end of the semester and it is a busy time for everyone, especially our students. This morning I was presenting my research and could not make the drive-up. But as we're nearing the end of the academic year, I am excited to share with you a recap of our accomplishments, leadership transitions, and several of our community engagement opportunities happening in the near future!

We are excited to share updates on our Night of Black Excellence fundraiser event. On March 31st, we were joined by students, alumni, and broader community members at Can-Can Wonderland to celebrate Black Excellence and community. Attendees enjoyed a game of mini golf, raffling and performances from a selection of talented and vibrant artists, including spoken word by Mia Abdullah and musical performances by Papa Bleu, Se'Anna on Da Mic, and Kelvino. We want to once again extend our gratitude to the Students United Scholarship and Alumni Board, staff members, and all that were a part of making this night a reality.

As we transition into academic year 2024, Students United is working on bringing in our next wave of passionate and driven student leaders. Currently with our Community Leaders Fellowship- previously known as the Student Leadership Program Fellowship, we've hired all 7 fellows to work internally with our staff in their respective departments! As mentioned previously, we've received positive feedback from our current interns on the effectiveness of the fellowship in their personal and professional development, and we look forward to continuing expanding the fellowship for our students in the future.

There are also a few leadership changes we'd like to note here at Students United. First, each of the seven universities are working to elect their incoming student body president who will serve or appoint a member onto our Board of Directors! Additionally, we have just elected our new State Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer for the academic year 2024! Each of these students has displayed tremendous leadership and dedication to student empowerment and growth. We are beyond excited to work with our incoming Board, fellows and officers to continue amplifying the voices and needs of our students in our advocacy at the system, state and federal level.

Throughout the year, Students United supported several policies at the System office that align with our student values and needs. As stated previously, our Board of Directors supported raising the fee maximums as stated in Board Policy 5.11 and System Procedure 5.11.1. Our Board of Directors working on campuses and hearing from a dedicated group of student leaders from Bemidji State University have also decided to support the proposed discretionary sustainability fee. We want to reiterate that our support for this discretionary fee stems from the power it grants to students. Students will have the ability to choose what is most suitable for their campuses' financial capacity and student preferences, which is very important to our student leaders.



We want to thank Chancellor Maholtra, Vice Chancellor Maki and Paul Shepherd for their consistent communication and consultation efforts with Students United, and we can confidently say our students and staff were well informed of the changes being made to 5.11 and 5.11.1 throughout the semester. Overall, we received tremendous student support from our Board members and the larger student body on these proposals, which we communicated to the Chancellor, his cabinet members, and now to you all as well.

We are also pleased to see several initiatives aligning with Equity 2030 come to fruition, such as the inception of the International RFP Health Insurance committee and MNTC Goal #7 final revision. Our staff and student leaders have advocated for both initiatives for several years and we will continue to work with the system office to support initiatives that work to expand equity, accessibility and affordability for our students.

As a member of the Chancellor's search committee, I am excited to see such wonderful candidates come through. Again, we'd like to thank Chancellor Maholtra for your work and dedication to the students and faculty across the Minnesota State System, and Students United is excited to continue building a strong relationship and foundation with the incoming chancellor!

At the legislature, we're continuing to monitor the Senate and House omnibus bills as the conference committee process begins. We plan to join with LeadMN and the University of Minnesota Student Government on a letter in support of Chair Fateh's tuition-free college proposal, and we'll also organize our own testimony and letters on the broader proposals. In particular, we're supportive of efforts towards tuition and cost relief, measures that help students meet their basic needs, and the inclusion of Senator Oumou Verbeten's menstrual equity language.

As illustrated, we at Students United are committed to building community across multiple sectors of our work, and we are excited to continue doing this with several upcoming engagement opportunities. First, we have our pilot, Virtual International Student Forum on April 25th from 12pm-1pm. Our international students are a vital part of our campuses and communities. We are eager to provide a safe space for them to share their experiences on campus and the ways in which Students United can continue to support them.

Lastly, we have our annual Penny Golf Scramble fundraiser event on June 1st at Gopher Hills in Cannon Falls. Proceeds of the event will go directly to funding the Penny Program Scholarships which has distributed over \$40,000 and has provided financial support to students across the seven state universities. We would like to extend an invitation to all members present to join us for a fun day of golfing, raffling, and celebrating over 30 years of the Penny Program. If members are interested in purchasing a ticket, please let me or our System Relations Coordinator, Samantha Raghu, know and we will send you the logistics to register!

Thank you all for your time, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.