

**September 17, 2008**

## **METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING**

### **Additional Statement for Board Discussion**

Recommendations for a Twin Cities development framework are listed in the background document for the Board of Trustees major topic discussion on Metropolitan Planning. In addition to recommended steps to take in the new few years, the following statement, describing a future long-range option, is suggested as an addendum to the framework.

**At some point in the future, among other long-range options, the Board should evaluate whether educational access could be enhanced by consolidating Metropolitan State University with one or more Metro Alliance colleges.**

Actions taken in today's environment would not preclude future expansion of Metropolitan State University though structural changes in the system's Twin Cities institutions.

Recommendations in this document are grounded in the current capacity of Metropolitan State University to meet needs for baccalaureate and graduate education in the Twin Cities. With added investment and deepened partnerships, the university can play a much larger role, But too many changes too fast would be difficult for the university to absorb. The differing roles, missions and staffing of open admissions colleges and state universities would be critical considerations in choosing whether or not to merge at a later time.