

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: April 21, 2010

Agenda Item: Follow-up to the OLA's Evaluation of the System Office

Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring

Information

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

Board Chair David Olson has assigned certain responsibilities to the audit committee for addressing the findings cited in the February 2010 program evaluation conducted by the Office of the Legislative Auditor *MnSCU System Office*.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

John Asmussen, Executive Director for Internal Auditing

Shannah Moore Mulvihill, Director of University & System Relations
Minnesota State University Student Association

Jessica Medearis, Director of Public Affairs
Minnesota State College Student Association

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

- The two student associations have surveyed students about their transfer experience and will present preliminary content from the survey results (final report planned for May 2010).
- The Office of Internal Auditing is analyzing system data on student credit transfer.

Background Information:

- The evaluation was requested by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees Chair, and it was authorized by the Legislative Audit Commission.

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD INFORMATION

FOLLOW-UP TO THE OLA'S EVALUATION OF THE SYSTEM OFFICE

BACKGROUND

On February 10, 2010, the audit committee met with Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles and his staff to review and discuss their program evaluation report, *MnSCU System Office*. Based on that discussion, the Audit Committee Chair made several recommendations to the Board Chair on how to address the report findings. In a letter to the members of the Board of Trustees dated February 17, 2010, Board Chair David Olson acted on those recommendations and assigned responsibilities to the board committees for addressing the findings cited in the report.

The April 2010 meeting will focus on the audit committee responsibilities for studying student credit transfer. Chair Olson assigned this responsibility to the audit committee in his February 17, 2010 letter. The committee will be provided with preliminary information on two research efforts related to this study:

- The two statewide student associations, with assistance from the Office of the Chancellor Research and Planning Division, have administering a survey of students about their experience with transferring credits. Representatives from the associations will present preliminary information on the survey results to the committee and discuss their plans for developing final recommendations. They plan to present a final report to the audit committee at its May 2010 meeting.
- The Office of Internal Auditing is testing fiscal year 2009 student records to identify the extent that credits may not have transferred between MnSCU colleges and universities and the reasons for any unsuccessful credit transfers. Part of the testing will focus on a stratified random sample of students entering a MnSCU college or university after having earned credits previously at another MnSCU college or university. A second test will analyze the transfer experience of students who earned a baccalaureate degree in either Psychology or Accounting in 2009.

Committee members interested in good background information on the credit transfer issue are encouraged to review articles available from the Education Commission of the States. See <http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/IssueCollapse.asp>

The audit committee is scheduled to take final action on referring any credit transfer issues to board policy committees at its May 2010 meeting.

Date Presented to the Board of Trustee: April 21, 2010