

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** March 21, 2012

**Agenda Item:** Academic and Student Affairs Committee Goal

Proposed Policy Change       Approvals Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring

Information

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

In the fall of 2011, each committee of the Board was asked to select one or two committee goals to focus on for the year. The committee decided to wait for the arrival of Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton on February 15, 2012, the committee is now ready to discuss and select its goal. Because of the timing, it is anticipated that the goal will continue into the next fiscal year as well.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Douglas Knowlton, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

The suggested goal is *Creating Access to Success Pathways for MnSCU Students*. This goal supports the first pledge within the Strategic Framework *Ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans*. Approved by the Board of Trustees in January 2012.

**Background Information:**

While “access” has been a hallmark of the system since its inception, “access and success” were added to the Board’s Strategic Plan in 2008. In 2012, *Ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans* was approved by the Board of Trustees as one of three overarching themes in the Strategic Framework. Providing access and success for Minnesota’s diverse learners require multiple strategies and practices – pathways if you will.

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<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
<b>ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GOAL</b>

**BACKGROUND**

In the fall of 2011, each committee of the Board was asked to select one or two committee goals to focus on for the year. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee elected to wait until the arrival of a permanent Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to engage in this process. With the arrival of Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton on February 15, 2012, the committee is now ready to discuss and select its goal. Because of the timing, it is anticipated that the goal will continue into the next fiscal year as well.

**Creating Access to Success Pathways for MnSCU Students**

While “access” has been a hallmark of the system since its inception, “access and success” were added to the Board’s Strategic Plan in 2008. In 2012, *Ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans* was approved by the Board of Trustees as one of three overarching themes in the Strategic Framework. Providing access and success for Minnesota’s diverse learners require multiple strategies and practices – pathways if you will. Thus the title of the goal – *Creating Access to Success Pathways*. The proposed goal is as follows:

The Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee will explore, discuss and advocate for research-based best practices in promoting student success (persistence and completion).

This goal is particularly appropriate for the ASA committee because these practices involve both the academic and student affairs communities and demand good collaborative relationships between them for success.

The goal could be accomplished in several ways including:

- Review proven college and university strategies that work, including those underway within the system, as well as explore new emerging practices or approaches. System campus leaders and others could share information about their experiences.
- Host one or more study sessions and discussion with regard to key policy questions and issues impacting access to success at the system, state and/or national level. Sessions could include presentations from one or more local or national “experts” to kick off the trustees’ discussion.
- Endorse and/or develop recommendations that evolve from the committee’s study or from projects underway within the Strategic Framework.