

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**
3

INFORMATION ITEM

State and Federal Legislative Update

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5 **STATE**
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7 Legislators have returned to St Paul for the 2005 session with challenges in budget and policy areas.
8 Representative Bud Nornes, R-Fergus Falls, has been appointed chair of the 12 member House Higher
9 Education Division replacing Rep. Doug Stang who did not seek re-election. The committee has begun
10 work with overviews of the higher education systems and financial aid programs.

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12 Senators have also begun their reviews with a discussion of the Citizen's League *Report on Higher*
13 *Education In Minnesota*, and have scheduled budget reviews. Senator Sandy Pappas, DFL – St
14 Paul, will chair the committee again this term.

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16 Failure of the 2004 legislature to pass a capital bonding bill has increased the pressure to pass a bill in
17 the early portion of the 2005 session. Governor Pawlenty and House and Senate leaders have made
18 recommendations and the Capital Investment Committees have begun their hearings. Pawlenty
19 recommended \$100 million for the State Colleges and Universities as part of an \$816 million proposal
20 he would like the legislature to adopt. This represents a \$62 million increase over his recommendations
21 in 2004, and \$28 million of the increase is to pay for inflation on building materials. Representative Dan
22 Dorman, R- Albert Lea, has been selected to chair the House Capital Investment Committee and
23 Senator Keith Langseth, DFL – Glyndon, will retain the chair in the Senate.

24
25 Governor Pawlenty will deliver his State of the State speech in Rochester on January 18th. There may
26 be an indication of priorities that will follow in the budget recommendations to the legislature. In earlier
27 presentations the Governor has indicated a high priority for Education, Transportation, and Health Care.

28
29 Presidents of the Colleges and Universities are scheduling regional meetings with lawmakers to review
30 the budget and capital recommendation of the Board. Chancellor McCormick will attend the meetings
31 and Trustees are invited to attend as well. The meetings are being scheduled in the first eight weeks of
32 the session.

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34 Finally, the week of March 14 – 17 will be a priority week for legislative work of the colleges and
35 universities. There will be a number of events and each institution will be asked to come to the
36 legislature and meet with members. That week in March is an important time because the legislature will
37 be setting budget and spending targets for the biennium.

38 **FEDERAL**

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- 40 1. Preparations are being made for Board Member attendance at the 2005 Association of Community
- 41 College Trustees, February 14 – 16. Appointments with Congressional Members are being set.
- 42 Information packets are being put together. Those attending include:
- 43 • Chair Robert Hoffman
- 44 • Trustee Cheryl Dickson
- 45 • Trustee Ivan Dusek
- 46 • Trustee Lew Moran
- 47 • Trustee Thomas Renier
- 48 • Chancellor James McCormick
- 49 • Mary Jacquart, Director, Federal Government Relations
- 50 • Inge Chapin, Board Secretary
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- 52 2. Information on the system's federal appropriation requests for the 2006 federal fiscal year budget
- 53 are being prepared for Congressional Members and staff. Formal requests for the appropriations
- 54 will be made by the end of January/early February. Government Relations and campus staff will
- 55 continue to work on promoting the requests through the process that runs spring through fall, 2005.
- 56
- 57 3. The 109th Congress got off to a quick start after convening on January 4th.
- 58 • New Chair for the House Appropriations Committee: Representative Jerry Lewis, R-CA.
- 59 • Designate Margaret Spellings is expected to be confirmed for the position of Secretary of
- 60 Education. Confirmation hearings are now taking place.
- 61 • The House is expected to re-introduce their version of Perkins, the Act that provides funds for
- 62 career and technical education in high schools and two-year colleges, in the next few weeks.
- 63 The Senate has not yet indicated timing on their Perkins work.
- 64 • The House has re-introduced their version of the Workforce Investment Act as the *Jobs*
- 65 *Training Improvement Act*. The troubling provisions related to the funding of the one-stop
- 66 infrastructure remain. If this provision were adapted, a portion of the Perkins funds would be
- 67 shifted to the Minnesota Workforce Center System.
- 68 • Representative Collin Peterson, D-Detroit Lakes, has received appointment as the ranking
- 69 Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee.
- 70 • Representative James Oberstar, D-Chisholm continues as ranking member of the House
- 71 Transportation Committee.
- 72 • Representative Martin Sabo, D-Minneapolis, will serve as ranking Democrat on the House
- 73 Appropriations Committee.
- 74 • Representative Jim Ramstad, R-Minnetonka, will chair the House Ways and Means
- 75 Subcommittee on Oversight.
- 76 • Updates and links to federal legislation will be posted on the system website at:
- 77 <http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html> .