

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

INFORMATION ITEM
State and Federal Legislative Reports

Status of 2006 supplemental and capital budget requests

As of this writing, the Senate has passed their capital budget bill (SF3475) and the House is expected to pass their bill (HF2959) on April 12. Below is a comparison of our system's bonding request, the Governor's recommendation, and the Senate and House bills.

Priority	Project Title	Request	Governor	Senate SF3475	House HF2959
1	HEAPR	110,000,000	20,000,000	55,000,000	40,000,000
2	MSU, Mankato Trafton Center	32,900,000	32,900,000	32,900,000	32,900,000
3	SCSU Wick Science Bldg addition & renovation	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
4	Century New Science addition & renovation	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000
5	Fond du Lac Library addition & cultural center	12,390,000	0	12,390,000	12,390,000
6	MSU Moorhead MaClean Hall	9,680,000	0	9,680,000	9,680,000
7	MCTC Science & allied health renovation	18,874,000	18,874,000	18,874,000	18,874,000
8	STP Transportation & applied technology lab	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
9	BSU Sattgast Hall	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
10	MSC-SETC LRC, student services	4,855,000	4,855,000	4,855,000	4,855,000
11	Normandale Classroom renovation & addition	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000
12	IHCC Classroom addition & renovation design	700,000	0	700,000	700,000
13	SCSU Riverview Hall	4,500,000	0	4,500,000	4,500,000
14	WSU Maxwell Hall	11,186,000	11,186,000	11,186,000	11,186,000
15	15 Systemwide – Science	5,140,000	5,140,000	5,140,000	5,140,000
16	16 Systemwide – Demolition	1,660,000	0	1,660,000	1,600,000
17	17 Systemwide – Land	11,440,000	6,900,000	9,270,000	0
18	NHCC Business & Technology	700,000	0	700,000	700,000

19	Northland Nursing addition, Library & classroom	600,000	0	600,000	600,000
20	MSU Moorhead Lommen Hall	600,000	0	600,000	600,000
21	Lake Superior Health & Science Center design	840,000	0	840,000	840,000
22	Metro SU Classroom building	4,880,000	0	4,880,000	0
23	Alexandria TC Law Enforcement Center design	840,000	0	840,000	0
24	Metro SU & MCTC Co-located Law Enforcement Center	700,000	0	700,000	0
25	NHED Eveleth Technical Lab	4,300,000	0	4,300,000	0
26	SMSU Science & hotel & restaurant lab	500,000	0	500,000	0
27	WSU Memorial Hall	400,000	0	400,000	400,000
	Total	280,410,000	142,580,000	223,240,000	187,690,000

Status of system related bills moving through the Legislature

Even with the anticipation of a short bonding session, a variety of policy bills have been making their way through the legislative process. Highlights include:

The House Higher Education Finance Division heard from both MnSCU and the University of Minnesota on their respective supplemental budget requests. The budget target for this committee is \$4.8 million, which means there isn't much money to fund supplemental budget requests from either system. On the Senate side, the Higher Education Budget Division passed their omnibus bill which included \$1.56 million for MnSCU in FY2007 for global skills initiative and \$15 million in FY2007 for technology. Both of these were part of the MnSCU system's supplemental budget request. Other funding includes \$7.2 million to reduce the student share 1 percent from 46 percent to 45. Also, \$5 million in FY07, \$5 million in FY08 and \$6.33 million in FY09 were appropriated for the University of Minnesota, Rochester campus.

Highlights of other bills introduced in the House and/or Senate include efforts to:

- Regulate tuition paid by seniors for certain courses; eliminate obsolete language; authorize the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees to control certain depository services (MnSCU Housekeeping Bill)
- Ratify the MAPE, MMA, MSCF, AFSCME, Managerial Plan, Commissioner's Plan, Minnesota Government Engineers Council, State Residential Schools Education Association, IFO, MSUAASF, Office of Higher Education, MnSCU Administrators and the State Board of Investment contracts
- Require the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to include one labor representative and one business representative
- Modify confidentiality requirements relating to the President search selection process at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor search
- Propose a study to address the costs of textbooks

- Authorize colleges and universities the option to notify parents of student underage drinking and substance abuse
- Require in-state tuition status for veterans and the creation of course equivalency guides for military coursework
- Require leaves of absence for the immediate family members of a seriously injured or killed member of the armed forces
- Require teacher preparation program data to be collected and easily accessible on a Web site.
- Establish a tuition cap on public postsecondary institutions
- Modify the student share for the state grant program
- Establish a branch campus of the University of Minnesota in Rochester
- Prohibit local governments from imposing certain fees related to students at postsecondary institutions
- Repeal of the requirement that the names and addresses of state student financial aid recipients be public data
- Create a taskforce of students, faculty, administrators and legislators that would investigate and report on the assessment of faculty and teaching assistant's communication skills
- Revise MnSCU's system tax-sheltered annuity minimum vendor requirements; revising contribution rates for State Arts Board and Minnesota Humanities Commission individual retirement account plan members to equal those of MnSCU's system individual retirement account plan; and repealing obsolete higher education mandatory retirement age provision
- Propose a Chinese language curriculum project to systematically develop Chinese language programs in Minnesota

Two-year college students recognized for academic achievement by Governor Pawlenty

Gov. Tim Pawlenty proclaimed March 30, 2006, the All-Minnesota Academic Team Day. Twenty-three two-year college students received recognition this week for their academic achievements. The students, who make up the All-Minnesota Academic Team, were honored at a luncheon held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. The recognition program is sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Nominees were selected based on biographical information, letters of recommendation, academic performance, demonstration of leadership, and campus and community service involvement. They also must have a grade point average of at least 3.25 at a Minnesota two-year college.

Federal Higher Education Act reauthorization – House bill passed

After two days of debate, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 609 on a 221 to 199 vote. This is the legislation that reauthorizes the Higher Education Act for the next six years.

One of the more controversial issues has been Representative Howard “Buck” McKeon’s (R-CA) efforts to champion the establishment of a new College Affordability Index (CAI) as a measure of the rate of increase in tuition and fees. The index, which looks at the percentage increase in tuition and fees over three years divided by the change in the consumer price index, would be posted to the National Center for Education Statistics College Opportunities Online Web site for each institution. The CAI,

designed to crack down on colleges that increase their tuition and fees too much, survived changes to the bill but less burdensome provisions would be imposed on institutions with high scores

Also removed from the bill was a provision that would have altered the formula the government uses to distribute funds to the three campus-based aid programs: Federal Work-Study, Perkins Loans and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. Other changes to the bill included:

- eliminating a provision that would have prohibited colleges from refusing to accept transfer credits based on the accreditation of the sending institution;
- authorizing matching grants to help institutions pay for fire detection and prevention systems installation.

Congress passed another short-term extension through June. The Senate version of the bill has not yet been brought to the floor. The Senate passed a reauthorization bill last fall and appended it to the budget reconciliation bill. Some provisions, notably those affecting the student loan programs and instituting the Academic Competitiveness and SMART grants programs, were included in the budget reconciliation bill.

U.S. Department of Education federal panel on higher education identifies top five goals for report

With a report due August 1, the U.S. Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education voted on five top priorities at their April 6 meeting. These priorities will be used to guide their policy recommendations. The list, in order, includes:

1. increasing access to college for low-income students and adults
2. improving the nation's commitment to lifelong learning and workforce development,
3. increasing need-based aid,
4. doubling the number of graduates in science and mathematics,
5. expanding institutional accountability and transparency.