

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Finance, Facilities and Technology      **Date of Meeting:** March 19, 2008

**Agenda Item:** Finance, Facilities and Technology Update

Proposed Policy Action       Approval Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring

Information

**Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:** The Board has directed staff to undertake a special project which focuses on the price of attendance and the cost to educate students. This project will be incorporated into a larger study concerning tuition policies.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):** Laura M. King, Vice Chancellor – Chief Financial Officer

**Background Information:** The timeline allows for recommendations to impact the FY2010-2011 biennial operating budget process in the fall of 2008 and the FY2010 operating budget and tuition discussions.

# Tuition Study Including the Price of Attendance

An initiative of the  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees

## **Purpose:**

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system recognizes the importance of maintaining an affordable cost of attendance for Minnesota residents (Strategic Plan Goal 1.2). The Board has directed staff to undertake a special project which focuses on the price of attendance and the cost to educate students. This project will be incorporated into a larger study concerning tuition policies.

## **Research:**

The Finance Division will undertake a study concerning the System's tuition policies. As part of this study, the total price of attendance will be addressed. The Board of Trustees has expressed an interest in identifying the total (gross/net) price that students/parents are paying for post secondary education. It is anticipated that the study will address the following questions:

1. What is the current tuition policy and how did it evolve?
2. How does tuition compare nationally?
3. What is the total price paid by students/parents?
4. How does price differ by type of learner, program of study or institution?
5. What is the role of financial aid?
6. How does financial aid impact the price of attendance?
7. What is the System's total spending per student and how does it compare nationally?

The study will include examination of the credit basis of tuition, the use of banded and market pricing and the impact variables for full time versus part time students.

## **Deliverables and timeline:**

The tuition study will occur over the next six months and conclude with a report to the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee in July 2008. A workgroup comprised of chief academic, student affairs, and finance officers will be involved in constructing the study.

January-June 2008	Workgroup convened and provide assistance/input on study
April-June 2008	Discussion with Leadership Council and other stakeholder groups
June 2008	Recommendations submitted to Chancellor and Leadership Council
July 2008	Recommendations presented to Board of Trustees

## **Budget:**

No additional funds have been allocated to complete the study.

## **Evaluation:**

The timeline allows for recommendations to impact the FY2010-2011 biennial operating budget process in the fall of 2008 and the FY2010 operating budget and tuition discussions.