MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Advancement
Date of Meeting: November 18, 2008

Agenda Item: 2009 Legislative Session

☐ Proposed Policy Change  ☐ Approvals Required by Policy
☐ Other Approvals  ☐ Monitoring

☐ Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:
Review of anticipated 2009 legislative activity

Scheduled Presenter(s):
Mary Davenport, director of government relations

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:
Discussion of November 4, 2008 election outcomes
Discussion of anticipated policy issues that may be raised during the 2009 legislative session
Discussion of 2009 legislative session advocacy
Election Outcomes

The Minnesota House of Representatives will have 23 new members when the 86th Legislative session begins on January 6, 2009. There are 12 new Republican members and 11 new DFL members. Democrats increased their numbers by two seats and now hold 87 seats. Ninety votes are needed for a gubernatorial override. Republicans retained enough seats to ensure against a veto-override majority, and now sit at 47 seats. Final numbers will not be certified until the State Canvassing Board meets later this month. In addition to a close review of the U.S. Senate race between incumbent Senator Norm Coleman and challenger Al Franken, the Office of the Secretary of State may determine that two House races will require a recount:

- District 12B incumbent Al Doty, DFL-Royalton, leads Mike Lemieur by 76 votes
- District 16A incumbent Sondra Erickson, R-Princeton, trails Gail Kulick Jackson by 99 votes

New members-elect include:
Paul Anderson, R-Starbuck
Bobby Joe Champion, DFL-Minneapolis
Greg Davids, R-Preston
Connie Doepke, R-Wayzata
Keith Downey, R-Edina
Andrew Falk, DFL-Murdock
Jeff Hayden, DFL-Minneapolis
Kory Kath, DFL-Owatonna
Tim Kelly, R-Red Wing
Mary Kiffmeyer, R-Big Lake
Gail Kulick Jackson, DFL-Milaca - pending possible recount
Jenifer Loon, R-Eden Prairie
Tara Mack, R-Apple Valley
Mark Murdock, R-Ottertail
Jerry Newton, DFL-Coon Rapids
Mike Obermueller, DFL-Eagan
John Persell, DFL-Bemidji
Roger Reinert, DFL-Duluth
Paul Rosenthal, DFL-Edina
Tim Sanders, R-Blaine
Peggy Scott, R-Andover
Phil Sterner, DFL-Rosemount
Paul Torkelson, R-St. James
**Anticipated 2009 Legislative Session Issues**

The 2009 legislative session will convene January 6, 2009. In addition to the 2010-2011 Biennial operating budget, legislative initiatives affecting Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may come up during the 2009 session:

1. Veteran education benefits
2. Teacher education/teacher preparation
3. Online education
4. Dental hygienist training program
5. 60/120 credit limit
6. Office of the Legislative Auditor report on occupational programs and charter school sponsors
7. Department of Health background study fee
8. Revenue fund statutory debt authorization increase
9. Capital project authorization for Metropolitan State University and Minneapolis Community and Technical College
10. Transfer
11. Iron Range higher education offerings

It is also anticipated that a supplemental state capital/bonding bill may be introduced which may include system projects that didn’t make it through the 2008 bonding process.

On December 4, 2009 the Minnesota Management & Budget office will present an economic forecast for the State of Minnesota. This is a formal forecast of state revenues and expenditures prepared in February and November each year as required by state law. Forecast information is used by the Governor and Legislature to ensure that enacted budgets remain on track and in balance, and to plan for future budgets. Forecast information is also used by bond rating agencies and other financial analysts to review the state's financial health, and by the media who present information on the state's financial condition to the public.

**2009 Legislative Advocacy**

Various strategies to be used throughout the session to support the system’s budget request. The overarching goals of the 2009 Legislative session are to:

1. Obtain the maximum possible amount of state funding for the priorities outlined in the budget request approved by the Board of Trustees, and
2. Increase the awareness and appreciation of the system’s contributions to the state by lawmakers, legislative staff and those who influence them.

The Government Relations and Public Affairs teams in the Office of the Chancellor lead the advocacy efforts, but all the divisions within the Office of the Chancellor play important roles. College and university presidents and their campus communities are an integral part of the process for building support for the 2009 legislative priorities. Constituency groups are another important groups that are encouraged to become engaged in support of the 2010-2011 biennial operating budget request through the Friends Advocacy Network.