

**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

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<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
<b>2009 Legislative Session</b>

**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. On line 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.