Advancement Committee Members Present: Trustees Christine Rice, chair; Cheryl Dickson, vice chair; David Paskach; Thomas Renier; Louise Sundin; Terri Thomas.

Other Trustees Present: Trustees Scott Thiss, Jacob Englund, Duane Benson, James Van Houten, Ruth Grendahl, David Olson, Clarence Hightower, Allyson Lueneburg.

Leadership Council Committee Members Present: Chancellor James McCormick, President Douglas Allen, Linda Kohl, Mary Davenport, Maria McLemore.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Advancement Committee met January 21, 2009, at Saint Paul College. Chair Christine Rice called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Approval of the Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Chair Christine Rice called for a motion to approve the November 18, 2008 Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and adopted.

1. Advancement Update

Maria McLemore, interim director for system and foundation relations, reported that she and Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer will be meeting with representatives of the Carnegie Corporation. The meeting topics will include the centers of excellence and the accountability dashboard. The purpose of the meeting will be to explore potential partnerships.

2. Teacher Preparedness

Peter Hutchinson, president of the Bush Foundation, spoke regarding teacher preparation in the K-12 system. Hutchinson’s goals include improved student learning outcomes and an increase of 50 percent or more of students earning a postsecondary degree. The Bush Foundation will be focusing on a major teacher preparation initiative. He invited Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to work with the Bush Foundation to promote effective teacher preparation.

3. Owatonna

The committee had a first reading of an amendment to Board Policy 1.1A that adds Owatonna to the list of approved locations.

4. Legislative visitors

State Senators Kathy Sheran and Claire Robling and State Representatives Bud Nornes and Tom Rukavina shared their priorities for higher education for the legislative session.
Sen. Sheran, DFL-Mankato, who has served on the faculty at the Minnesota State University Mankato indicated that she understands the issues of higher education and hopes to have further dialogue with the Board of Trustees. In finalizing the work set before the Legislature and the Board, she said it is important to be flexible in meeting goals and objectives.

Rep. Nornes, R-Fergus Falls, minority lead of the House Higher Education Committee, asked the Board of Trustees for an up-front investment available to all colleges and universities which would allow campuses take risks and try new programs.

Rep. Rukavina, DFL-Virginia, chair of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, stated that with this bleak economic situation, he felt that the state is worse off than what it was in 2003. To get out of this situation, he said, revenue must be raised. Rukavina said higher education is the fabric of society and cannot take another $300 million hit. He asked the Board to tell the governor that the budget deficit cannot be solved only by cuts. While the governor has a priority of online learning, Rukavina stated that he did not think that this online education was the solution because technology costs money. He hoped that Minnesota students should not see the same types of cuts they saw in the past. He indicated that the state cannot afford to lay off faculty. Rukavina noted that his door is always open to trustees and that everyone must work together to get out of the economic mess.

Sen. Robling, R-Jordan, minority lead of the Senate Higher Education Committee, indicated that she was impressed with the board’s “can-do” attitude and the Board’s desire to limit tuition increases. In reference to the governor’s proposed wage freeze, she expressed hope that faculty will not be lost to other states. She acknowledged that there is a difficult economy and that the whole nation is hurting. Recognizing that wages make up 80 percent of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities budget, Robling questioned where cuts could be made. As an economic forewarning, Robling predicted that the February forecast would be worse than the November forecast.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Walz, recorder