

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Advancement

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2009

Agenda Item: State Legislative Update

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 current legislative activity.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Mary Davenport, Director of Government Relations

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

Legislative activity

Update on 60/120 credit legislation

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INFORMATION ITEM
State Legislative Update

Legislative Activity

In addition to the legislature's priority business of the budget (see Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee FY 2010-2011 Budget Planning materials), a large volume of policy legislation has been introduced. Deadlines for committee action are:

- March 27 - to act favorably on bills in the House of origin
- April 7 - to act favorably on bills, or companion of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body
- April 16 - divisions of House and Senate finance committees act favorably on omnibus appropriation bills
- April 22 - House and Senate finance and taxes committees, and the House Ways and Means Committee, act favorably on omnibus appropriation and tax bills
- May 7 - conference committees on omnibus appropriations and tax bills must report bills to the floor

The intention of the legislature is to have all budget, finance and tax bills sent to the governor by May 12, six days before members must constitutionally adjourn. (The first and second deadlines do not apply to the House Finance, Ways and Means, Taxes or Rules and Legislative Administration committees, or the Senate Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Administration committees.)

60/120 credit maximum

Bills have been introduced to repeal Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 136F.301 and allow the Board of Trustees to determine credit requirements for programs (SF644 and HF748). Related bills have also been introduced to 1) provide a process for granting waivers for emerging and innovative programs of special merit or need (SF972 and HF1115), and 2) exempt associate of applied science degrees from the 60 semester credit limit (SF579 and HF505).

Other areas of interest to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities being tracked in the legislative process include:

1. Trustee confirmation
2. Veteran education benefits
3. Teacher education/teacher preparation
4. P-20 education
5. College readiness
6. Remedial instruction
7. Oral health practitioner training program

8. Office of the Legislative Auditor report on occupational programs and charter school sponsors
9. Arts and environment constitutional amendment implementation
10. Bioscience business development
11. Department of Health background study fee
12. Capital projects, capital improvements
13. Revenue fund statutory debt authorization increase
14. Lifelong learning credits
15. Iron Range higher education offerings
16. Public employee salary and wage freeze
17. Allowing grants to Minnesota State Colleges & Universities for suicide prevention activities
18. Early retirement
19. Data practices provisions
20. vote requirement to increase optional student fees