

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Board of Trustees Study Session

Date of Meeting: March 18, 2009

Agenda Item: Minnesota Online II

- Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring
- Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Governor Pawlenty has shown strong interest in online learning for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Senior Vice Chancellor, Linda Baer would like to engage the Board in a discussion of how to continue to advance online learning in the system to meet the system's strategic directions.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Patrick Opatz, Chief Operating Officer, Minnesota Online
Alfred Essa, Deputy Chief Information Officer

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

- Online learning in the system
- Governor's goal: generate 25% of credits online by 2015
- Address the goal in broader strategic context
- Actions to address strategic directions through online

Background Information:

The enclosed is background information for an interactive session that will focus on actions for addressing the Governor's goal for online learning as part of a broader strategy to achieve the system's strategic directions.

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

INFORMATION ITEM
MINNESOTA ONLINE II

BACKGROUND

The enclosed is background information for an interactive session that will focus on actions for addressing the Governor's goal for online learning as part of a broader strategy to achieve the system's strategic directions.



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Minnesota State Colleges & Universities

Minnesota Online II

Board of Trustees

March 18, 2009



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Overview

1. System colleges and universities have been providing online education for a long time.
2. Online enrollment has grown substantially – in response to the needs and demands of students.
3. Online is a means to an end -- one of the many ways to serve students and to address the Board's strategic directions.
4. The system can meet the Governor's challenge within a broader strategic context.
5. Additional actions are required to meet the strategic directions through online.



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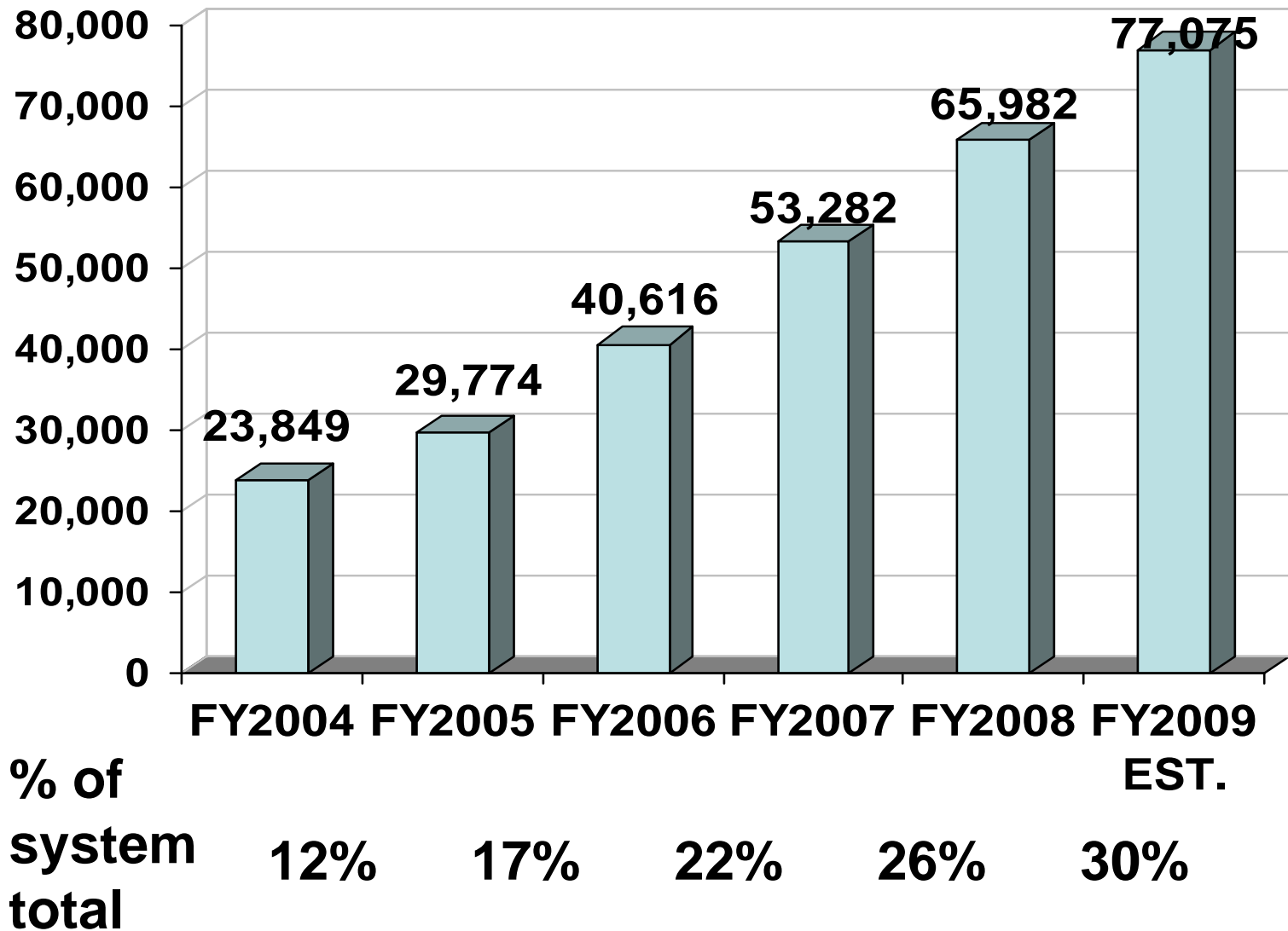
Online in MnSCU

- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have been delivering online courses for over a decade.
- All colleges and universities deliver courses online.
- Most colleges deliver at least one fully online program – over 250 programs across the system.
- Local, shared, and enterprise wide systems help support online students.



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Online student headcount has increased 220% in past six years





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Online Comparisons

- System online headcount has grown twice as fast as U.S. colleges and universities since 2003.
- All system colleges and universities were offering online courses by 2004 compared to 70 percent of surveyed U.S. colleges and universities.

Source Sloan Consortium Survey of 2, 500 U. S. colleges and universities.



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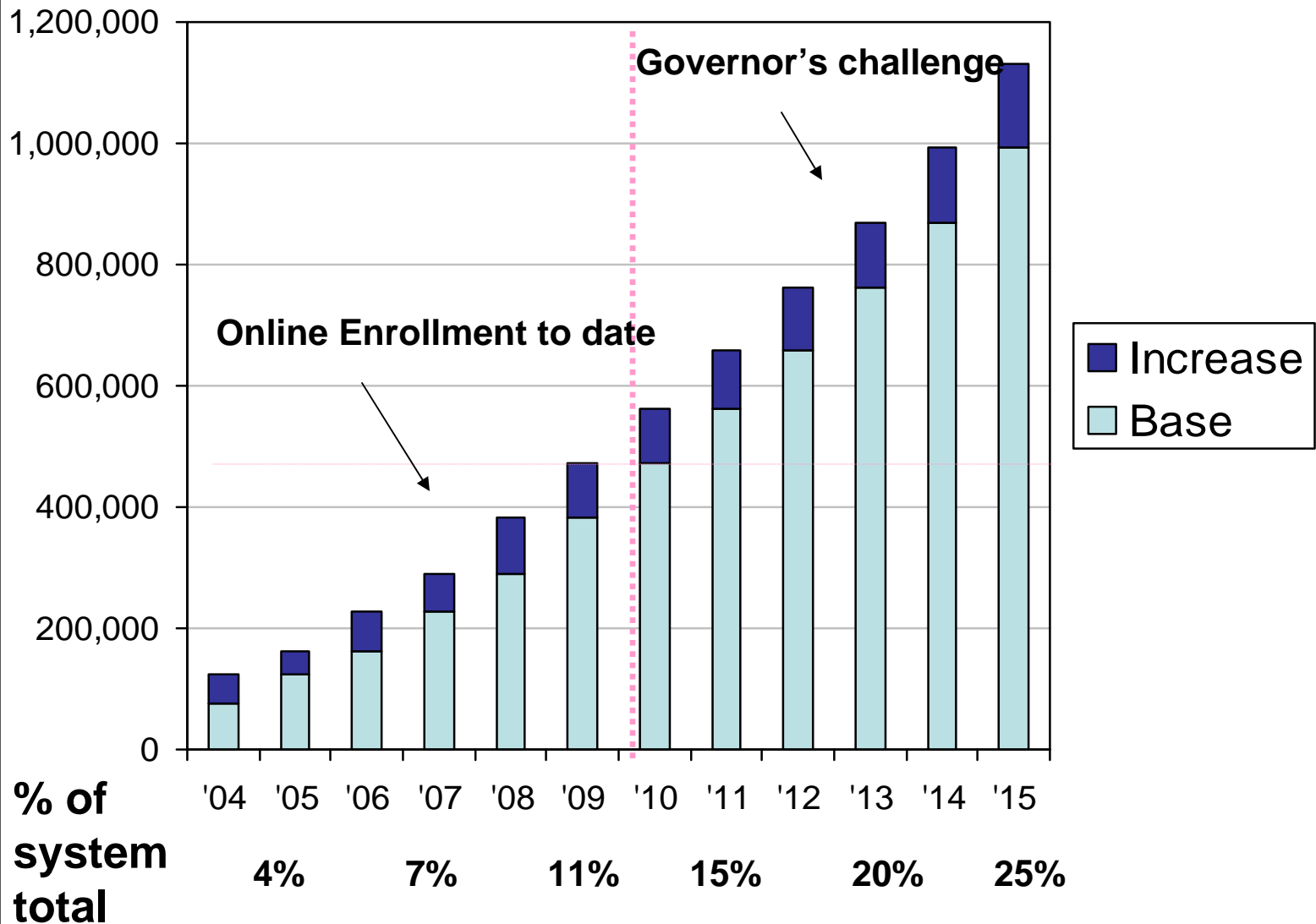
Governor's challenge

- There are implications to Governor's challenge of delivering 25% of credits through online:
 - Number of additional sections required
 - Number of new courses required
 - Number of additional faculty trained
 - Increase in the information technology capacity



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Projected growth in online Credits to meet Governor's challenge





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Meet challenge in broader context

- Is generating additional online credit the best way to serve students and the State?
- Addresses one of Board's strategic directions -- Access
- Develop plan that addresses the broader, long-term strategic directions of the system -- including urgent workforce needs



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Meet challenge in broader context

- Address the Board's strategic directions
 - Access
 - Student Success (Quality)
 - Economic needs of the State
 - Through innovation and data analysis
- Using all approaches available
 - Classroom based courses; Hybrid; Online; Credit; Non-credit; Customized training; Academic, student and workforce support services



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MnSCU is at a point of change

- Serious economic crisis
- Drastic changes in demographics
- Technological innovation and new learning tools
- Heightened competition from for-profits
- Maturation of the Minnesota State College and Universities system
- Urgency in meeting workforce needs of the State



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MnSCU is at a point of change

- Current approach has been successful to date
 - Promoted growth
 - Created foundational elements of institutional collaboration and coordinated student support
- But a new approach is needed for the future



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Immediate Actions: Workforce Recovery

1. Meet needs of dislocated workers
2. Partner with DEED
 - Training Resource Center
 - ISEEK
3. Leverage customized training, continuing education and centers of excellence
4. Focus on critical workforce needs and specific learner segments



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Near term actions - 2009-2011

- Minnesota Online will be the central “Hub” for online learning in the system
 - Access to all college and university courses and programs with ability to apply, register and pay
 - Full array of integrated support services to ensure that students successfully navigate the system
 - Assist colleges and universities develop shared online curriculum for targeted areas
 - Provide tools and support to faculty for developing online courses
 - Provide data to align programs with targeted student learner segments and State needs
 - Open new online markets, including enhanced services to businesses



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Targeted learner segments

Learner Segments	Information Technology	Digital Media	Life Sciences	Health Care	Green Tech	Advanced Mfg	Advanced Services	Education
College experience learners								
Employed learners								
Degree completion adult learners								
Occupational or professional enhancement learners								
Life fulfillment learners								
Developmental learners								
Pre-college (K-12) learners								
Veterans								

Prioritized and designed for target economic sectors and student groups

Approached tactically and contextually

Measured by student performance/ graduation rates, placement rates, and overall cost constraints



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Long-term actions for 2012-2015

- Full integration of student support services
- Extensive collaboration in curriculum development and delivery
- Flexible services and delivery options
- Competency based learning
- Programs designed for targeted economic sectors and student groups
- Expanded partnerships with K-12
- Extensive use of action analytics



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Results of actions

- Increased access and enrollment
- Higher retention and success rates
- Increased competencies
- Better use of limited resources
- Better services to students and businesses
- Students degrees aligned with viable careers – employed graduates
- Improved teaching through availability of most effective teaching methods
- Improved data for decision making and accountability



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Response to Governor's challenge

- Meet challenge within broader strategic context
- “Online” should include totally online, hybrid/blended, credit, continuing education, and customized training courses
- Include targets for:
 - Access
 - Success
 - Meeting State needs



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Futures

- Students will be trained for jobs not yet invented
- Bandwidth will be free and readily accessible
- Learning will be facilitated by games, simulations and virtual environments
- Compact portable technologies facilitate anywhere/anytime lifelong learning
- Education must be competency based
- Technology fluency is a basic skill
- Learning will be life long... or ongoing... readily available any time, any place, any pace