Executive Committee Members Present: David Olson, Chair, Duane Benson, Ruth Grendahl, David Paskach, Christine Rice and Scott Thiss

Executive Committee Members Absent: Thomas Renier

Other Members Present: James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Saint Paul College, 235 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul, on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. Chair David Olson convened the meeting.

(1) Minutes of November 19, 2008, Meeting
The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on November 19, 2008, were accepted as written.

(2) FY 2009 Second Quarter Board Operating Budget
Trustee Scott Thiss, Treasurer, reported on the second quarter of the Board of Trustees operating budget. The budget for FY 2009 is $240,000. For the second quarter ending December 31, 2008, the Board has spent 34 percent, or $82,205, of its budget. Encumbered funds are $94,401, with an available balance of $63,394. Treasurer Thiss added that the Board’s budget would be reduced by about two percent in January to account for the governor’s unallotment to the system to balance a projected shortfall in the current fiscal year.

(3) Review March 17-18, 2009, Board Meeting Agenda
Chair Olson commented that the Board will have a study session on online learning during the March meeting. Chair Olson also requested that staff prepare a timeline and principles for how to address the budget deficit in March. Vice Chancellor Laura King responded that the timeline in the Board packet was developed in consultation with Trustees Tom Renier, Clarence Hightower and Scott Thiss as advisors. Responding to an inquiry, President Pat Johns explained that the presidents already are engaged in budget planning discussions on their campuses. Chair Olson suggested including Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer in discussions with the advisory group.

Peter Hutchinson, President, Bush Foundation, will be invited to the March meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, as a follow-up to the report he made to the Advancement Committee earlier in the day; time constraints limited the discussion. The Audit Committee will meet to select external auditors for the audited financial statements. Replying to Senior Vice Chancellor Baer’s inquiry about the waiver process for the 60/120 legislation, Chair Olson remarked that the waiver process should continue to move forward.

Trustee Christine Rice inquired about the duplicate materials in the Board packet. Secretary Inge Chapin explained that the duplicate materials represent how the materials
are posted online. She continued that staff had similar concerns since the electronic packet was created last July; the process has been one of continuous improvement, and they will eliminate the duplication.

(4) Leadership Council Comments
President Johns reported that the Leadership Council is supportive of the bargaining progress. He continued that the Chancellor has been very direct with the presidents about the budget, and they have been planning for some time on how to make reductions. Vice Chancellor King reported that the governor’s unallotment will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Trustee James Van Houten presented an amendment to Board Policy 1A.2, part 4, on the election of officers that would extend their terms from two to three years. Citing the great challenges facing the system in the coming year, he commented that the current leadership is doing an outstanding job. Trustee Van Houten recommended that the Board consider the amendment stating that stable leadership will help guide the Board and the system during these challenging times. Chair Olson directed staff to draft the amendment as a first reading for the Executive Committee’s consideration in March.

Trustee Rice suggested that committee chairs be seated near the head of the table while their committees are in session. They will need to move afterwards for the other committee chairs to be seated, but it will make it easier for them to conduct the meeting. Chair Olson supported the suggestion which will be implemented in March.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.