

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Advancement

**Date of Meeting:** January 21, 2009

**Agenda Item:** State and Federal Updates

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 2009 legislative activity.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Mary Davenport, Director of Government Relations

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

Discussion of legislative activity

Federal activity

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

**State and Federal Updates**

**2009 Legislative Session**

The 2009 legislative session was convened January 6, 2009. The system's first higher education hearing took place in the Senate on January 8 to speak to three points: 1) a review of the 2003 deficit and how it was handled 2) the 2009 unallotment, and 3) the 2010-2011 budget and how a budget cut would be handled. The Senate Higher Education Committee has also scheduled a campus site visit at Normandale Community College on January 13. The Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division has asked for a review of the budget impact on Minnesota State Colleges and Universities the week of January 19<sup>th</sup> with an agenda similar to the Senate's. In addition to the budget issues being addressed, the legislature is beginning to look at policy issues and other business related to higher education. As the session advances, the following topics may be addressed:

1. Trustee confirmation
2. Veteran education benefits
3. Teacher education/teacher preparation
4. Oral health practitioner training program
5. Office of the Legislative Auditor report on occupational programs and charter school sponsors
6. Arts and environment constitutional amendment implementation
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 and/or the 60/120 credit limit
11. Iron Range higher education offerings
12. Economic stimulus, including bonding (may include system projects that didn't make it through the 2008 bonding process)

**Federal Economic Stimulus Package**

Congressional leadership is working with the Obama transition team to craft a \$675 billion to \$850 billion stimulus plan and move it through the House of Representatives as early as January. The stimulus package is expected to fall into the following categories: 1) \$200 billion for middle-class tax breaks and tax credits for tuition and small businesses, 2) \$200 billion for Medicaid and education, 3) and \$350 billion for investments covering infrastructure, renewable energy tax credits, health technology investments and food stamps. Congressman Oberstar has reportedly circulated a plan for \$85 billion in infrastructure investments, including \$30.2 billion for highways, \$12 billion for local public transportation and an additional \$14.3 billion for environmentally related infrastructure.