

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Advancement

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

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Guests

Proposed  
Policy Change

Approvals  
Required by  
Policy

Other  
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

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

On-going communication with Legislative leaders.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Mary Davenport, Director of Government Relations

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

Discussion of priorities for higher education.

Invited guests:

Senator Sandy Pappas (DFL – St. Paul)

Senator Claire Robline (R – Jordan)

Representative Tom Rukavina (DFL – Virginia)

Representative Bud Nornes (R – Fergus Falls)

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

<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
<b>Legislative Guests</b>

Higher education leadership from the Minnesota House and Senate are invited to address the Advancement Committee to share their priorities for higher education for the legislative session. Invitations were extended as part of the on-going effort to continue open communications with legislative leadership for the House and Senate higher education committees. Background information on the legislative guests is included below.

**Senator Sandra Pappas (DFL – St. Paul)**

**Chair: Higher Education Budget and Policy Division**

Education: Masters, Public Administration, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1994; BA, Metropolitan State University, 1986; Attended, University of Minnesota, 1967-1969.

Professional Experience: Community Faculty, Metropolitan State University, 1994-present; Arts Organizer, Community Programs in the Arts; College Instructor, Metropolitan State University; Employee, Noble Birth Resource Center and Retail Store; Communications Specialist, West 7th Communications Center.

Political Experience: Senator, Minnesota State Senate, 1990-present; President Pro Tem, Minnesota State Senate, 2003-2004; Candidate, Mayor of Saint Paul, 1997; Representative, Minnesota House of Representatives, 1985-1990.

Organizations: Commissioner, Education Commission on the States, 2002; Founder, Center for True Economic Progress; Director, Great North American History Theatre; Member, Metropolitan State Alumni Board; Co-Chair, Midwest Progressive Elected Officials Network; Minnesota Commissioner, Midwestern Higher Education Compact; Director, Minnesota Children's Museum; Board Member, Mississippi Riverfront Corporation; Board Member, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation; Former Chair, Social Action Committee, Shir Tikvah Congregation State Director, Women's Legislators Lobby; Board Member/Treasurer, World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association.

Caucuses/Non-Legislative Committees: Member, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board; Member, Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans; Member, Council on Black Minnesotans; Member, Indian Affairs Council; Commissioner, Mississippi River Coordinating Commission; Federal Budget and Tax Committee, National Conference of State Legislators.

Committees: Capital Investment, Member; Finance, Member; Higher Education, Chair  
Higher Education Budget and Policy Division, Chair; State Government Budget Division  
Member; State and Local Government Operations and Oversight, Member.

**Senator Claire Robling (R – Jordan)**

**Ranking Minority Member: Higher Education Budget and Policy Division**

Education: Attended, Journalism, College of Saint Catherine, 1974-1977.

Professional Experience: Reporter/Editor, Prior Lake, Chanhassen, Chaska and Savage  
Newspapers, 1982-1996; Editor, Jordan Independent, 1980-1981; Newspaper Reporter,  
Shakopee Valley News, 1977-1980; Intern, Minnesota Legislature, 1976; Freelance Writer.

Political Experience: Senator, Minnesota State Senate, 1996-present; Assistant Minority Leader,  
Minnesota State Senate, 2003-2006; Former Precinct Chair; Former District Delegate.

Organizations: Member, 4-H Club; Member, Jordan Chamber of Commerce; Member, Jordan  
Commercial Club.

Caucuses/Non-Legislative Committees: Co-Chair, Early Childhood Legislative Caucus, present.

Committees: Capital Investment, Member; E-12 Education Budget Division, Member; Finance,  
Member; Higher Education, Ranking Minority Member; Higher Education Budget and Policy  
Division, Ranking Minority Member; State Government Budget Division, Ranking Minority  
Member; State and Local Government Operations and Oversight, Member.

**Representative Tom Rukavina (D – Virginia)**

**Chair, Higher Education & Work Force Dev. Policy and Finance Division**

Education: BA, Political Science, University of Minnesota – Duluth; AA, Mesabi Range  
Community and Technical College.

Professional Experience: Legal Assistant.

Political Experience: Representative, Minnesota State House of Representatives, 1986-present;  
Former Member, Town Board, Pike Township; Former Chair, School Board, City of Virginia.

Caucuses/Non-Legislative Committees: Former Member, Minnesota Iron Range Resources and  
Rehabilitation Board.

Committees: Capital Investment Finance Division, Member; Education Finance and Economic  
Competitiveness Finance Division, Member; Finance, Member; Higher Education and Work  
Force Development Policy and Finance Division, Chair; Taxes, Member

**Representative Bud Nornes (R – Fergus Falls)**

**Ranking Minority Member, Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division**

Education: Broadcasting, Brown Institute of Broadcasting, 1962.

Professional Experience: Owner/Broadcaster, KJJK AM/FM Radio, 1962-present.

Political Experience: Representative, Minnesota State House of Representatives, 1996-present; Member, Fergus Falls School Board, 1983-1996; Former Assistant Majority Whip, Minnesota State House of Representatives.

Organizations: Member, Chamber of Commerce; Member, Ducks Unlimited; Member, Elks; Member, Kiwanis; Member, Minnesota Broadcaster Association; Member, National Association of Broadcasters; Member, Pheasants Forever; Member, United Way.

Committees: E-12 Education, Member; Early Childhood Learning Finance Division, Member; Energy Finance and Policy Division, Member; Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division, Ranking Minority Member; Minnesota Heritage Finance Division, Member.