The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Advancement Committee met March 17, 2009, in St. Paul. Chair Christine Rice called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Approval of the Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Chair Rice called for a motion to approve the March 17, 2009, Advancement Committee meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and adopted.

1. Advancement Update
President Douglas Allen reported that the Foundation Taskforce has been meeting. Members of this taskforce have been going through the audit recommendations and will report back to the board.

2. Foundation Update
Maria McLemore, interim executive director for system and foundation relations, introduced John Schweers, Chair of the Foundation Board. He has been on the board for nine years and was recently elected chair.

Chair Schweers told the committee that 2009 was a critical year for the foundation, which went through a leadership change and developed specific goals. The foundation’s three goals are fundraising and leadership, meeting named fundraising goals and using staff proactively. Since the leadership change, the foundation has exceeded its named fundraising goal this year by $100,000. The foundation board also meets less often and requires attendance at the meetings. The board has moved to fewer committees and instead makes decisions as one body. Moving ahead, the foundation is looking to create new goals, which will include building up the fundraising goals, attracting new board members and continuing to use the staff effectively. The foundation’s administrative procedures and policies have also been updated.

Schweers added that the Foundation is also trying to improve its relationship with the Board of Trustees and desires to work better together.
3. Legislative Update
Mary Davenport, system director of government relations, provided a legislative update. Throughout session, the government relations team worked on the three Board of Trustee’s goals: 1) making decisions in a way that best serves students 2) taking into account the economic development needs of the communities and state, and 3) using a multiyear approach to position the system for long-term financial viability. Financial aid changes at the federal level provided a surplus of financial aid at the state; new provisions were put in place to distribute this funding, including an increase in the four-year tuition cap, increasing eligibility from eight semesters to nine, increasing the LME from $800 to $7,000, and creating a summer bridge program for high school students before they enter college.

Under the higher education bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided additional funding to higher education. The system is required to submit a detailed expenditure reduction plan to the Legislature by March 15, 2010. PSEO can now be marketed to high school students. The 60-120 credit cap was amended to exempt A.A.S. degrees. The exemption will last until 2012. Campus bookstores must strive to sell American made clothing, to the extent possible. A new bridge program was put into place for high school students that need some remedial work. The program will allow students to take summer courses and transition into college courses for the start of fall semester. The higher education legislation also included a provision to get more students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA form. A new license was given for oral health practitioners; this can be offered by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

The Office of the Chancellor will be studied next year by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. The K-12 bill changed the membership of the P-16 education partnership, of which the chancellor is a member, to be a P-20 partnership with more members for the newly added sectors. The focus of the partnership is to create a seamless system of education that maximizes the potential of all students, from early childhood through elementary, secondary and post-secondary education.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Walz, Recorder