

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

INFORMATION ITEM

Strategic Plan Priorities for the FY 2008-2009 Biennial Operating Budget

BACKGROUND

In January 2006, the Board of Trustees adopted a strategic plan for 2006-2010. The new four-year plan grew from the previous three-year plan by retaining three strategic directions and adding a new fourth direction. The three strategic directions carried forward from the previous plan include increasing access and opportunity, promoting and measuring high-quality learning programs and services, and providing programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs. The new fourth strategic direction focuses on innovation to meet current and future educational needs efficiently.

FRAMEWORK

This report addresses the process of building links between the strategic plan and development of a FY 2008-2009 biennial budget that supports and furthers the policy directions and priority goals within the plan. To ensure that the results of this process produce recommendations that effectively address the system's most critical needs for the fiscal 2008-2009 biennium, the work must reflect the diverse characteristics and needs of the students served by this system. This will require attention to needs that range well beyond traditional students to include adult learners of all types and those for whom efforts to strengthen their college readiness and success are of prime importance. In addition, it is proposed that this approach be applied to the entire funding framework—base resources as well as any new money that may be included in the request.

Chancellor McCormick is currently in conversation with the Board of Trustees and college and university presidents as part of the planning process for the FY2007 work plan release. Access and opportunity, readiness, and innovation in program and service delivery have emerged as common themes in these conversations. The results of his conversations will be presented to the Board in April and may result in different or additional areas of emphasis. At this time the Board's advice is sought to identify specific goals within the strategic directions that could be emphasized in developing funding priorities for the FY2008-2009 biennial budget.

PROCESS

It is imperative that development of the system's biennial budget be a collaborative process between the Board, the Leadership Council and constituent groups. To facilitate that process, it is proposed that a steering committee comprised of presidents and senior administrative staff function as a liaison between work groups and the Leadership Council. Work groups based on

the strategic directions identified as FY 2008-2009 funding priorities by the Board would be formed of appropriate constituent group members. The work groups would labor over the summer to develop specific budget requests. Upon completion of their work, the resulting budget proposals would be forwarded to the steering committee for their review before transmittal to the Leadership Council for discussion. The Chancellor would ultimately present the system budget recommendations to the Board in September. A public hearing would be scheduled before the October 2006 board meeting at which trustees would act on the budget recommendations.

Date presented to the Board: March 22, 2006