

Year 2004-05

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF REGENTS

Public Forum on the University Budget

June 13, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 12:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: David Metzen, presiding; Anthony Baraga, Steven Hunter, Lakeesha Ransom, and Patricia Simmons. Clyde Allen, Peter Bell, Frank Berman, Dallas, Bohnsack, and John Frobenius participated by telephone.

Staff present: President Robert Bruininks; Vice Presidents Kathryn Brown and Richard Pfutzenreuter; and Executive Director Ann Cieslak.

Regent David Metzen, Chair of the Board of Regents, welcomed those in attendance at the Board of Regents Public Forum on the University Budget. He noted that the University of Minnesota Crookston, Duluth, and Morris campuses were connected to the meeting via an interactive television connection. He reviewed the procedures to be followed for the meeting and stated that the Board of Regents intends to vote on the proposed budget at their June 27, 2005 meeting.

Executive Director Cieslak then called forward the following individuals:

Shelley Sherman – AFSCME 3937, Minneapolis

Ms. Sherman spoke about the impact of wage freezes and minimal pay increases to workers with smaller salaries. She maintained that University wages are having a devastating effect on employees and are causing many to hold second and third jobs. She also stated that the mileage reimbursement does not adequately cover employee expenses, which is particularly challenging for employees who work in the community and must use their own cars.

Phyllis Walker – AFSCME 3800, Minneapolis

Ms. Walker maintained that employee wages have not kept pace with cost of living in recent years. She attributed the significant financial challenges faced by employees to the recent wage freeze enacted in the same year that health care costs were shifted to employees. Walker presented a survey compiled by University Unions United to illustrate the economics of the working at the University.

Toby Greenwald – AFSCME 3800, Minneapolis

Ms. Greenwald read survey responses of AFSCME members about the economic challenges faced by University employees.

Jan Young – AFSCME 3800, Minneapolis

Ms. Young read survey responses of AFSCME members about the economic challenges faced by University employees.

Angie Stehr – AFSCME 3800, Minneapolis

Ms. Stehr read survey responses of AFSCME members about the economic challenges faced by University employees.

Jeffrey Klausner – Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine; Incoming Chair, Twin Cities Deans Council

Dean Klausner expressed support for the proposed budget and appreciation for tuition increases in the single digits. He applauded the three percent salary increase, but cautioned that more resources must be put into faculty and staff compensation in order to remain competitive.

Amy Jo Pierce – Vice President, Minnesota Student Association

Ms. Pierce spoke about the impact of the proposed budget on undergraduate students. She articulated support for the University's legislative request and applauded the moderate success of the legislative session for the University. Pierce emphasized that despite the lower tuition increase, the cost of attendance has reached a point where some students will no longer be able to attend the University.

Gary Balas – Professor, Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics; Member, Faculty Consultative Committee

Professor Balas commended the legislature and governor for the state support granted to the University during the current legislative session, but he expressed concern for the trend of decreasing state investment in the University. He expresses support for the president's budget initiatives of academic investments, student support services, competitive compensation, and 21st century technology and libraries. He maintained that faculty compensation needs to be increased if the University is to accomplish the goal set forth in the strategic positioning proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

**ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary**