

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF REGENTS

Public Forum on the University Budget

May 23, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Monday, May 23, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in the Boardroom, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: Anthony Baraga, presiding; Clyde Allen, Dallas Bohnsack, Steven Hunter, David Larson, David Metzen, and Patricia Simmons. Frank Berman, Cynthia Leshner, and Lakeesha Ransom participated by telephone.

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

Regent Anthony Baraga, 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, Morris, and Rochester 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 the June 9, 2006 Board meeting.

The following individuals were then called forward:

Fred Morrison – Chair, Senate Finance & Planning Committee

Professor Morrison spoke on behalf of the Senate Finance and Planning Committee and expressed support for the proposed FY07 operating budget. He stated that the committee is in favor of the new budget model, but urged the University to be attentive to the inevitable implementation problems.

Candace Lund – AFSCME 3937, Minneapolis

Ms. Lund urged the University to provide a tuition remission benefit for the dependents of University employees. She stated that the MnSCU system, seven Big Ten institutions, and over half of the peer institutions in the annual University of Florida study of public research universities offer this type of benefit. Lund requested that the Board of Regents appoint a task force to study the issue and make recommendations.

Dmitry Zhdanov – President-Elect, Graduate and Professional Student Association

Mr. Zhdanov commended the University on the stadium effort and stated that the new facility will foster community on campus. He observed that the addition of housing for graduate and professional students would improve the campus significantly. Zhdanov also emphasized that wage increases for teaching and research assistants in the proposed budget are extremely important given that tuition has increased in recent years.

John Day – UMD Department of Social Work

Mr. Day discussed the American Indian Projects in the Department of Social Work on the Duluth Campus and funding issues the program has faced. He requested that the University provide more stable and permanent financial support.

Morris Kleiner – Chair, Senate Faculty Affairs Committee

Professor Kleiner addressed faculty compensation, recommending that increased funding be directed to the recruitment and retention of faculty members and researchers. He reported that the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee is committed to assisting the University in addressing faculty compensation issues.

Max Page – President-Elect, Minnesota Student Association

Mr. Page attributed a decrease in participation in student activities to more undergraduate students having to work significant hours as a result of tuition increases. He applauded the University's lobbying efforts for the stadium and expressed hope that next year's legislative focus will be on student financial issues.

Jean Bauer – Chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

Professor Bauer spoke on behalf of the Faculty Consultative Committee and the Senate Research Committee and expressed support for the new full-allocation budget model. She stressed the importance of developing a mechanism for feedback on the new budget model, so that it can be determined if the intended impact is occurring.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

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