

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF REGENTS

Thursday, May 13, 2010

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

600 McNamara Alumni Center, Boardroom

Board Members

Clyde Allen, Chair
Linda Cohen, Vice Chair
Anthony Baraga
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AGENDA

1. Northrop: The Vision - R. Bruininks/T. Sullivan/S. Rosenstone (pp. 2-3)



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May 13, 2010

Agenda Item: Northrop: The Vision

review review/action action discussion

Presenters: President Robert H. Bruininks
E. Thomas Sullivan, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Steven Rosenstone, Vice President for Scholarly and Academic Affairs

Purpose:

policy background/context oversight strategic positioning

To update the Board of Regents on the proposed strategy to revitalize Northrop by transforming the interior of the building in ways that will advance key academic priorities and make Northrop a vital academic, civic, and cultural center for our students, faculty, and the people of Minnesota.

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

For over 80 years, Northrop has served as the University of Minnesota's primary gathering place for academic ceremonies, for the performing arts, and for significant lectures. The elements and the auditorium's heavy use have taken their toll. Northrop does not meet current building code and life safety requirements. And although Northrop is structurally sound, the building systems can fail at any time and their failure could trigger Northrop's immediate closing. In its current state, Northrop is functionally obsolete, dysfunctional, and contributes very little to our students, and faculty, and the people of Minnesota; it does not help advance the University's top academic priorities.

This update identifies the risks and opportunities associated with various options for Northrop including doing nothing; refurbishing, but not reconfiguring the building interior; delaying; and proceeding with the revitalization of the facility.

Background Information:

Designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., Northrop is the focal point of Cass Gilbert's campus master plan for the University of Minnesota. At the head of the mall, Northrop is not only the center of the Twin Cities campus, it is a University icon and the second most recognized building in the state.

Since 1993, the University has undertaken 11 different studies to determine how best to repair, revitalize, and transform Northrop for the future. The University decided in 2005 to save Northrop and as a first step commissioned a detailed forensic study of the building to determine exactly what needed to be done to stabilize the facility. In 2006, the Board of Regents authorized the expenditure of HEAPR funds and central reserves to stabilize the building, restore its historic exterior, and address the most pressing life safety issues. Although the \$13.3 million exterior restoration work completed in 2007 stabilized Northrop, it did not address critical issues about the inside of the facility itself.

In February 2006, President Bruininks appointed the Northrop Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for the future use of Northrop that would advance the University's goal to be one of the world's top public research universities. The committee, chaired by Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien and then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Steven Rosenstone was comprised of students, faculty, deans, and community leaders. The Committee assessed Northrop's historic and current use, functionality, operations, and physical state; analyzed current and potential financial and operational models; evaluated the facility, program, and market; and sorted through a dozen alternative reconfigurations of the facility. The Advisory Committee consulted broadly with campus stakeholders and members of the community and, in October 2006, reported its recommendations for transforming Northrop in ways that would advance the University's top academic priorities. Vice Presidents O'Brien and Rosenstone presented the Advisory Committee's recommendations to the Board of Regents in February 2007. This presentation builds on that report and provides an update on the progress that has been made toward achieving a vision and implementing key strategies over the past 39 months.