



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs

DATE: January 24, 2024

TITLE: Legislative Investments in Academic and Student Affairs

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Paul Shepherd, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Kim Lynch, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Development and Technology

PURPOSE

This informational presentation and discussion will provide an update on the investments made in academic and student affairs programming during the 2023 legislative session. It will highlight some of the initial plans for utilizing the additional investments and discuss upcoming plans that will support Equity 2030 and student success.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For Minnesota State, the enacted budget for the 2024-2025 biennium includes \$292.9 million in new funding, of which \$168.3 million in the tails. Among the investments made in Minnesota State, the following appropriations directly related to academic and student affairs are included in the enacted law, Chapter 41 for the 2023 legislative session.

- **Student Support:** The budget includes \$6.316 million for student support, which is \$3.158 million each year of the biennium and ongoing in the base. The funding will help campuses address basic needs insecurity, mental health and other high-need student support services by increasing the amount of available resources to students. In addition, this funding will provide systemwide resources and coordination.
- **Z-Degree Textbook Program/Open Educational Resources:** The budget appropriates \$1 million in one-time additional funds each year of the biennium for a total of \$2 million to reduce students' out-of-pocket costs by expanding free offerings in course materials and resources, including through open educational resources, open

textbooks, and implementation of Z-Degrees. While this is one-time funding, the enacted budget does fund the \$50,000 already in the base.

- **Equipment and Learning Environments:** The budget appropriates \$13.5 million in one-time funding for equipment and learning environments, which is \$6.75 million each year of the biennium for upgrades to college and university equipment and learning environments. The \$6.75 million appropriated in FY2025 is to be matched with cash or in-kind contributions from non-state sources.
- **Develop and Expand Industry Sector Programming:** The budget appropriates \$13.5 million in one-time funding for program development, which is \$6.75 million each year of the biennium to develop and expand industry sector programming to build capacity and support new and redesigned curricular options with an emphasis on offering students work-based learning experiences. The \$6.75 million appropriated in FY2025 is to be matched with cash or in-kind contributions from non-state sources.
- **Workforce Development Scholarships:** There is no new funding for this program, but the budget does fund the \$4.5 million each year of the biennium already in the base, and adds construction, education and public safety to the list of eligible programs for the workforce development scholarship program.

In addition to increases and additions to student scholarships and grants, other provisions in the law, including appropriations to the Office of Higher Education, that have an impact on the work of academic and student affairs include:

- **North Star Promise:** The law creates a scholarship program beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year to award scholarships to eligible students in an amount not to exceed 100 percent of tuition and fees after grants and other scholarships are deducted. Each scholarship is for one semester but may be renewed provided the eligible student continues to meet the conditions of eligibility. Eligibility for the scholarship includes that the student has completed the FAFSA, has a family adjusted gross income below \$80,000, has not earned a baccalaureate degree at the time the scholarship was awarded, is enrolled in at least one credit per semester, and is making satisfactory progress.
- **Emergency Assistance for Students:** The enacted budget includes an additional \$3.26 million in both years of the biennium and in the base for a total of \$3.579 million each year for emergency assistance grants to meet emergency needs of students. Of that funding, \$2.25 million each year of the biennium is for direct emergency grants to students attending a Minnesota State college or university.
- **Direct Admissions Program:** The law includes an additional \$575,000 each year in the base for the Direct Admissions Program intended to leverage existing K-12 and higher education student information systems to automate the admissions process for students and offer conditional admission to Minnesota colleges and universities to high school seniors based on the students' high school performance.
- **Minnesota American Indian Scholarships:** The law includes \$8.5 million each year of the biennium and in the base to establish a program to provide a first-dollar tuition and fee free pathway for eligible Minnesota American Indian students to complete

an undergraduate education. Of this amount, \$4.468 million in each year of the biennium is for a transfer to Minnesota State to provide a full tuition and fee waiver to a student eligible for this program. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in an undergraduate certificate, diploma or degree program, be either a Minnesota resident or an enrolled member or citizen of a Minnesota Tribal Nation, regardless of resident status, and have not obtained a baccalaureate degree or been enrolled for 180 credits or the equivalent.

Additional Resources

Centralized, Systemwide Student Basic Needs, Mental Health, and Other High Need Support Services (2023-2024)

Zero-Cost Course Resources Definitions (April 2021)