

## MSCF LEGISLATIVE GOALS VALUE STATEMENT

### **General Statement**

Past generations of Minnesotans valued higher education as a public good. This belief resulted in the dedication of public resources to develop one of the finest higher education systems in the United States. Minnesota, as an active member of the global society, places a premium on the knowledge and skills a world class education system provides. Without adequate funding from the legislature, MnSCU will be unable to continue providing the affordable quality education all students – traditional, first generation, and returning – need to compete in the new global economy. Education is a key element in Minnesota’s economic engine. The economic future of Minnesota depends on a great higher education system and its graduates.

### **Funding**

Principle:

MSCF Believes in funding that improves access to higher education for all Minnesotans, maintains affordable tuition rates, and ensures excellent teaching. This includes supporting an inflationary base funding increase each year for public higher education institutions, funding for technology, and funding for competitive compensation for faculty, with equal benefits for all without regard to sexual orientation.

### **Financial Aid and Tuition**

Principles:

MSCF believes in financial aid and tuition policies that improve all citizens’ access to higher education. This includes supporting family income based federal financial aid grants, loans, and tax credits.

### **Instructional Excellence**

Principles:

MSCF believes in a permanent, professional faculty; fair treatment for all faculty whether full or part time; faculty control and direction of an academically rigorous curriculum; faculty control and direction of professional development including sabbaticals; benefits and security for faculty and their families including domestic partners; true academic shared governance; access, rigor, and opportunity for students; true education, not fads or short-sighted political agendas.

### **Governance**

Principles:

MSCF believes in governance that represents a broad base of constituents. This includes support for organized labor representatives on the MnSCU Board of Trustees and the U of M Board of Regents.

### **Pension**

Principles:

MSCF believes in livable pensions for all public employees when they retire. This includes support for appropriate post-retirement adjustments based on cost of living increases and investment performance.

## **2010 MSCF (HIGHER EDUCATION) LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

### **Funding**

MSCF Supports:

1. Making M.S. 135 A. 01 binding upon MN Legislature, which would require the state pay at least 67% of costs at all public colleges/universities, with students responsible for 33%.
2. Providing instructional technology and equipment to ensure high-quality education.
3. Exempting MnSCU from the one-third debt service requirement starting with 2011 session.
4. Funding the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities HPERA 2010 capital bonding projects that were approved by the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Consideration for new bonding projects that fit into each college local mission to improve teaching and learning.
5. Prohibiting cuts or unallotments to any education programs in the public higher education system.

### **Financial Aid and Tuition**

MSCF Supports:

1. Opposing high tuition/high aid funding models that base allocations of student aid on a percentage of the tuition.
2. Aligning the definition of full-time student course load for state grant program purposes with the federal full-time student definition.
3. Improving financial aid for part-time students and students with non-declared majors at technical colleges to be administered by the Office of Higher Education Financial Aid Program.
4. Supporting state and federal financial aid grants, loans, and tax credits based on family income to make public higher education affordable to all citizens.
5. Increasing the Living and Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (LME) with cost of living.

### **Instructional Excellence**

MSCF Supports:

1. All PSEO courses, including concurrent enrollment, must have the same content and rigor of the equivalent college course.
2. Providing students access to state of the art technology and equipment that places students in the safest and most supportive environment, allowing them to attain their educational goals.
3. Attracting and maintaining the highest-quality education employees through competitive salaries.

### **Governance**

MSCF supports:

1. Adopting a selection process for Board of Trustees members that is similar to that used by the University of Minnesota Board of Regent appointments.

## **Pension**

### MSCF Supports:

1. Restoring long range stability to TRA pension plan. To provide benefits that attract and retain competent faculty and ensure the safeguarding of the financial integrity of the fund.
2. Providing age 65 as the normal age of retirement and providing the Rule of 90 or comparable benefit for all public employees hired on or after July 1, 1989.
3. Requiring full actuarial funding of all plans.
4. Requiring full funding of all benefit improvements.
5. Sharing the normal costs of benefits and benefit improvements equally between the employee and the employer.
6. Allowing higher education faculty who selected IRAP to buy into the TRA program at full actuarial cost.
7. Allowing Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP) higher education members the same access as TRA members to the combined annuities program.
8. Using pension funds for pension purposes only.