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Representative Gene Pelowski Jr., Chair
Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 491
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1606

Dear Representative Pelowski:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has achieved four of the five performance goals specified in Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 99, Article 1, Section 4, Subdivision 3.

The language in the act specified that five percent of the fiscal year 2015 appropriation is available after the Board of Trustees demonstrates the system has achieved at least three of the performance goals. Because the system has achieved four of the five goals, I respectfully request the release of the five percent of the system's fiscal year 2015 appropriation that depended on these goals being met. Specifics on the goals and system achievements include:

1. **Graduates or Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates: Goal Achieved**

   GOAL: Increase by at least four percent in fiscal year 2013, compared to fiscal year 2010, graduates or degrees, diplomas and certificates conferred.

   PERFORMANCE:
   - The number of graduates from system colleges and universities increased by 12.1 percent between fiscal years 2010 and 2013.
   - The number of degrees, diplomas and certificates conferred by system colleges and universities increased by 10.5 percent between fiscal years 2010 and 2013.

2. **Second Fall Persistence and Completion Rate: Goal Not Achieved**

   GOAL: Increase by at least one percent the fall 2013 persistence and completion rate for fall 2012 entering students compared to the fall 2010 rate for fall 2009 entering students.

   PERFORMANCE: The fall 2013 persistence and completion rate for fall 2012 entering students increased by 0.1 percent compared to the fall 2012 rate for fall 2011 entering students. The economy expanded significantly over the past year leading many students to take jobs before they completed their certificate or degree programs.

3. **Related Employment Rate of Graduates: Goal Achieved**

    GOAL: Increase by at least four percent the fiscal year 2013 related employment rate for 2012 graduates compared to the 2011 rate for 2010 graduates.

    PERFORMANCE: The related employment rate of graduates increased by 5.9 percent between fiscal years 2010 and 2012.

4. **Open Educational Resources and Plan to Reduce Students' Expenses: Goal Achieved**

    GOAL: By 2014, MnSCU must collect data on the number of Open Educational Resources tools and services offered and formulate a plan to actualize a one percent reduction in expenses directly related to the cost of instruction incurred by students.

    PERFORMANCE: The report on open educational resources and the plan to increase the use of open educational resources are attached. Our implementation of this plan will result in our students' textbook costs being reduced.

5. **Reallocation of Resources: Goal Achieved**

    GOAL: Reallocate $22,000,000 that became available through expense realignment in fiscal year 2014.

    PERFORMANCE: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities reallocated $29,294,996 in fiscal year 2014.

We appreciate the challenge that these performance goals presented and the opportunity to demonstrate our colleges' and universities' achievement of them.

Best wishes,

Steven J. Rosenstone
Chancellor

Attachments

c: Governor Mark Dayton
      Commissioner Jim Showalter
      Commissioner Larry Pogemiller
      Members, Board of Trustees
      College and University Presidents
      Senior Vice Chancellor John O'Brien / Vice Chancellor Laura King

Attachment A
Open Textbooks and Open Educational Resource (OER) Usage

The data presented below are from the D2L learning management system for the 2012-2013 academic year.   The data are links that faculty provide to students in their courses and illustrate the variety of OER tools and services that are being used across the MnSCU system.

Type of OER	Examples Include	Data
Content	• Academic Earth • Annenberg Learner Teacher Resources • Boundless Open Textbooks • College Open Textbooks • Connexions • Google Books • Hippocampus (NROC) • MERLOT • OER Commons • OpenStax • Project Gutenberg • Saylor.org • U of M's Open Textbook Library • WikiBooks • Wikiversity • Wisconsin Online	1,026 course links
Videos	• Kahn Academy • YouTube	24,423 course links
Online Activities Study Guides Free Course Content	• Activities for ESL • Education Portal • English Page – free ESL/EFL resources • Online grammar guide • Purdue Online Writing Lab • Spark Notes and other study guides	2,349 course links
Other Resources	• Electronic journal databases, newspapers, and electronic books • Library websites and e-reserves • Museum sites • Government information websites • Media/news/newspaper/magazines	19,268 course links
Total OER Links		47,066 course links
Tools Available for Faculty to Create OER		
Softchalk	A tool that allows faculty to create their own curricular materials and publish them into the Desire2Learn learning management system.	
Lodestar	A software based tool that allows for the creation of text or multimedia based curricular content.	

Plan to Increase Use of Open Textbooks and Educational Resources
Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016

Awareness, Engagement and Adoption
- Promote the adoption of open textbooks and OER with faculty through informational workshops and an OER planning toolkit.
- Work with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Textbook Affordability Workgroup, which includes faculty, students, and staff, to increase open textbook and OER usage.
- Launch a pilot of faculty members who teach high enrollment/high cost textbook courses (e.g., biology, math, accounting, psychology) to identify OER for use in the courses. This pilot may include faculty from the University of Minnesota.
- Promote attendance at the annual eLearning Summit for faculty to learn about OER and open textbooks.
- Create a digital course pack solution for faculty and students.
- Increase OER and open textbook resources available within Desire2Learn, the system learning management tool.
- Create a website resource that links faculty to OER and open textbooks by discipline.
- Facilitate faculty discipline review of OER on the website created.
- Continue collaboration with the University of Minnesota to promote the sharing of their Open Textbook Library with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.
- Participate in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) pilot to deploy OER and share insights with faculty.

Assessments to Measure OER impact
- Conduct survey of pilot faculty use of OER and open textbooks in fiscal years 2015 and 2016 to assess increased usage.
- Conduct an analysis of Desire2Learn data to examine trends in use of open resources.

Beyond OER
- Increase the use of book buy-back and used book purchasing.
- Expand book rental opportunities at bookstores and with online vendors.
- Encourage students to compare prices between bookstores and online vendors.
- Encourage faculty who use the same textbook to explore the use of OER.
- Encourage faculty to place supplemental materials on reserve in the library.
- Provide information to faculty on less expensive editions of textbooks.