2021 Minnesota Legislative Priorities

State university faculty support:

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Budget Request

- $75 million State investment for direct campus support.
  Additional investment will partially cover inflationary cost increases and allow our campuses to protect programs and support services our students rely on to succeed.
- $45 million for student equity and affordability initiatives.
  The Equity 2030 initiative is vital to the success of Minnesota. If we do not succeed in this initiative, Minnesota will leave the next generation of students behind.

Capital Investment

- Full funding of the MinnState Capital Budget Request with a priority on HEAPR funds.
- Repealing the statute requiring MinnState campuses to pay 1/3 debt service on all general obligation bonds.

Equity, Inclusion, and Campus Safety

- Legislation that challenges systemic oppression and empowers marginalized faculty, students, and staff through intentional equity and inclusion initiatives. Faculty must be empowered to lead efforts to foster learning communities that respect the inherent worth and dignity of all students based on the values of justice, inclusion, and equity.
- Efforts to reduce gun violence in MN and promote campus safety.

General Fund Revenue Increases

- Progressive increases in State general fund revenue will be necessary to support higher education at the levels needed to protect access, affordability, and quality.

Protecting Academic Freedom and Reforming Higher Education

- Reforms to the State Grant Program that increase the Living and Miscellaneous Expenses (LME) and prioritize public spending on students attending public higher education institutions.
- Reestablishing local control by limiting the authority of the MinnState system office.
- Develop a plan to ensure transfer students do not lose financial aid eligibility before completing a bachelor’s degree.
- MinnState institutions offering concurrent enrollment and PSEO shall be reimbursed the full cost of attendance of the students being served.

MinnState Retirement Benefit Reforms

- An increase in the employer contribution for faculty in the Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP) to match the employer contribution for faculty in the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) plan.

State university faculty oppose:

- Unfunded mandates or one-size-fits-all legislation that infringes on local control and academic freedom.
- Any legislative efforts to suppress the voice of our members in the political and legislative process.
- Any changes to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) that negatively impact state employees and their right to collectively bargain.
- Changes in free speech laws that do not respect local control and may lead to violence on our campuses.

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