

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDY SESSION
January 20, 2010**

Board Members Present:

Trustee Sundin asked if institutions need to incorporate existing national industry skill standards into programs. Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said national industry standards are used as a benchmark when applicable.

Program Review:

Associate Vice Chancellor López said the system has over 4,000 programs and they go through periodic institutional program reviews. Results are reported to the Office of the Chancellor and posted on the website.

He said the Office of the Chancellor reviews and approves programs, not courses. The curriculum is submitted and reviewed as part of the application process, but ongoing curriculum review is done at the institutional level.

Trustee Van Houten said it appears the Office of the Chancellor has not offered specific guidance on how the course reviews will take place and that would mean each institution is reviewing its programs using its own criteria. He asked what assurances trustees have that programs are being reviewed in a vigorous way and are quality programs.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said the system has defined indicators and a set of criteria which colleges and universities are to use in program review. The criteria includes: Contributions to mission and plans of the system college or university; assessment of student learner outcomes; academic program assessments; compliance with accreditation, licensure or certification requirements; input from advisory committees or other business/industry groups; and compliance with Minnesota Transfer Curriculum requirements.

Sample indicators include enrollment, transfer rates, program retention, graduation percentage, student satisfaction feedback, business-industry partnerships feedback and job placement. Also considered is feedback from key stakeholders, such as current students, advisory groups, alumni, employers and graduate schools.

Trustee Van Houten

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said she is ready to work with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on improvements in the validation of quality programs and communication back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Takash, Recorder