

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Name: Finance and Facilities Committee

Date: March 17, 2015

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

<b>BOARD ACTION</b>
<b>Smarthinking Contract Exceeding \$1 Million Dollars</b>

**BACKGROUND**

Board Policy 5.14, Procurement and Contracts, requires that contracts, including amendments, with total value greater than \$1,000,000 must be approved in advance by the Board of Trustees.

The proposed action item is for board approval to extend the vendor agreement with Smarthinking. The current contract has a cumulative total of \$1,209,708 through August 31, 2015.

The agreement with Smarthinking provides all of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities with live, on-demand online tutoring available 24/7 in a wide variety of subject areas. This service includes ESL writing specialists and bilingual math tutors.

The system office issued a request for proposal in 2011. The contract was awarded to Smarthinking with a 3 to 5 year term. The change in board policy results in board approval required in order to execute the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this term at an estimated cost of \$175,000 to 200,000. Staff will undertake a new request for proposal process in the upcoming year.

The cost of the agreement is paid by the per credit assessment of \$4.50/credit charged to the institutions for each online course.

**RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves extending the current agreement until August 31, 2016 at a maximum total cost not to exceed \$1,409,712. The board directs the chancellor or his designee to execute all necessary documents.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION**

The Board of Trustees approve extending the current agreement until August 31, 2016 at a maximum total cost not to exceed \$1,409,712. The board directs the chancellor or his designee to execute all necessary documents.

*Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: March 18, 2015*