

MSCF Minute



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Your first draft needs work

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On Tuesday, February 19, DFL Governor Tim Walz released his budget proposal which included only \$51.6 million of the 264 million Minnesota State request. This budget proposal continues a long trajectory of disinvestment in higher education that will continue to have negative consequences for the staff, faculty, and students in the Minnesota State community.

Since 1963, the faculty of the public two-year colleges have organized around a clear vision of higher learning in Minnesota. We believe high-quality higher education should be available to all who seek it, regardless of who they are, where they choose to live, and the challenges they have faced. We reject the notion that the quality of higher learning should be determined by how much tuition a student can afford; we believe no student should have to endure years of repaying student debt simply for seeking to improve their lives through higher education.

Over the years, the Minnesota State College Faculty has ardently encouraged Minnesota State to *ask the legislature for what is truly needed* to support

this vision. In some years, Minnesota State has ignored this advice and asked only for what administrators predicted they could get. In other years, *like this year*, Minnesota State boldly asked for what is actually needed.

Unfortunately, the funding received in both scenarios has been consistently far below the minimum needed to maintain high-quality higher learning for all. We hoped this year provided an opportunity to reverse this, however, Governor Walz's proposed \$51.6 million for Minnesota State continues this disappointing trend. This, coupled 54 million for the State Grant Program with proposed changes to that allocation formula, and we see a compounding damage to how the state is funding the system. Unfortunately, this damage will take a variety of forms – all negatively impacting our faculty, students and campuses.

We must do better for Minnesota's future. We, the Minnesota State College Faculty, call on Minnesota State to continue to ask for what it truly needs and to remain consistent in

advocating for that amount. We call on Governor Walz and his administration to help us understand why, in making an historic investment in K-12, higher education appears to have been left behind. Finally, we call on our members and all supporters of public higher education to reach out to their elected representatives to tell them how important higher learning is to our communities, to our workforce, and to our students.

Click on the links below to find out how you can contact your representatives.

House :

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/list>

Senate :

<https://www.senate.mn/members/index.php?ls=%20-%20header>

Find out who represents you:

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/distriicts/>