

# MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

## LTFS Response and Solutions

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Volume 3, Issue 4  
September 15, 2016

On Friday, September 9, we had a meet and confer session with the system office. This was our designated opportunity to provide formal feedback on the recommendations found in the Long-Term Financial Sustainability (LTFS) report. It also was an opportunity for us to provide input regarding the system's legislative request for the upcoming session.

Over the past couple of weeks, it has become clear that the two items, the LTFS report and the legislative request, are closely linked. Remember, LTFS cites stagnant legislative appropriations as evidence of the need for change. Our feedback, therefore, encompassed both issues.

Prior to meeting with the system office, members of the meet and confer committee discussed and agreed to five pieces of feedback to offer the system on these issues. What follows is a brief summary of each piece of feedback.

[#1 – The LTFS recommendations must be rejected.](#)

Simply put, this is a narrative/

script we will not subscribe to. Instead, we are interested in an honest, transparent process that builds and strengthens the system. This approach doesn't mean that recommendations found in the LTFS report are all automatically eliminated from future consideration. Good ideas which emerge as viable in an honest process should always have a place. It's the cooked process, and the negative, destructionist ideas it produced, that must be replaced.

[#2 – We have ideas to offer.](#)

The executive committee also met on Friday, September 9 and approved a [list of suggestions](#) to forward to the Chancellor. Some of the ideas were about the legislative request. Others were about how to improve the system and move it forward in a positive way. The ideas recognized that the system has room for improvement. The offer of the ideas demonstrates that we want to be part of moving the system forward. We are not simply the "no" organization.

[#3 – If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got.](#)

There is a tremendous lack of congruence between the system saying that stagnant legislative appropriations are a basis for the draconian proposals in LTFS, while at the same time saying they intend to pursue upcoming legislative appropriations in the same manner as they always have. There's a saying about "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" that applies here. If there is a historic problem with the system's legislative request, then maybe it's time to do something different. Our proposals offer three new approaches for consideration.

[#4 – Build trust, treat people decently.](#)

It sounds so simple, but it really is at the core of transformational success. Past experiences in the system demonstrate how leaders who value employees achieve positive results, results that work for everyone and move the institution forward.

Unfortunately, we also have many past examples of how things fail when people aren't respected. It's time to get on a path where people are consistently treated decently, in a way that builds trust and allows forward progress.

[#5 – Avoid the negative narrative.](#)

Someone whose opinion should matter to all of us said to me, regarding LTFS, "Here we go again. The system starts by telling everyone that everything is bad in the system." This negative public narrative must stop. The truth is this system is chock full of excellence, value, and opportunity. Can we do better? Of course. There's always room for improvement. Some of that improvement may well need to be fundamental and structural. Again, we're ready to be a part of meaningful change, provided it's done in an honest, respectful way.

So, let's set aside the LTFS narrative and get to work on doing something good.



Let's get to work!

Click here [MSCF/IFO joint petition](#) to sign the petition asking the Board of Trustees to reject the LTFS recommendations and clear the way for more of our good work. Our voices are being heard. Together we can do great things!