



September 7, 2016

Dear Trustees,

Since the release of the report for Long Term Financial Sustainability, our organizations have joined together over shared concerns that our individual voices were silenced during the development of this report. We now speak with one collective voice in opposition to the report, and offer suggestions of how to move forward.

The report was developed through a deeply flawed top-down process. We seriously question the basic assumptions made in the report because they lack strong evidentiary support. That leads to skepticism of the severity of the problems that the report aims to address. There are many questions that remain and that must be discussed by all stakeholders before adopting any recommendations.

The report is severely out of sync with what we hear each and every day from our students and members on campuses. These recommendations do not address how to make Minnesota State a place where students want to be and where they know they can succeed. During the development of the report, our organizations suggested opportunities for targeted investments to enhance the education we provide, as well as lead to increased revenue for campuses. These recommendations were dismissed. Instead, the administrators developing the report relied solely on recycled ideas for austerity that are contradictory to the realities we face on campuses.

Our coalition will continue to meet to discuss in more detail the recommendations that were offered by our members on the workgroup, as well as those ideas we hear each day from our campuses. We will continue our conversation and, if needed, present our shared ideas to lawmakers and the public.

We urge you to reject the draft as presented, and task the Chancellor with developing a bottom-up process that respects and includes input from students, staff, and faculty throughout the system. We stand ready and willing to help develop – and participate in – a redesigned campus-based process.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lindstrom
President, Minnesota State College Faculty

Jim Grabowska
Inter Faculty Organization

Jerry Jefferies
Statewide Chair, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees

Valerie Roberts
President, AFSCME Policy Committee

Tracy Rahim
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CC:

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Chancellor Steven Rosenstone
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