

May 11, 2022



Dear Senators and Representatives,

As the legislative liaison for UEA-D, the faculty union at the University of Minnesota Duluth, I write to ask you to support two elements from the House version of the Omnibus Higher Education policy and appropriations bill (HF 3872) that are critical to UMD students, faculty, and staff.

The first is the \$44.761 million supplemental appropriation, which includes \$13.88 million for targeted financial aid to students who need it and enhanced student services that will boost the 4-year graduation rate. UMD is currently the most expensive campus for students from low-income households in the UM system, and has a 4-year graduation rate of only 43% (compared to 64% at the Twin Cities campus, where some of these services are already available).

The second is the proposal to require the University of Minnesota Board of Regents to include one tenured faculty and one representative of a university employee organization. The current composition of the Board lacks members with ground-level experience in the day-to-day operations of the University. Without this knowledge, the Regents cannot adequately supervise the President and system administration.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

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