

2022 Legislative Priorities

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State university faculty support:

IFO Contract Ratification

- 🎓 Ratification of the 2021-2023 contract settlement.

Supplemental Campus Support

- 🎓 **\$55 million** state investment for direct campus support and a fully funded tuition freeze. These funds will help campuses facing structural deficits and fully fund a tuition freeze in FY23. The IFO remains committed to move the state toward the statutory goal of funding two-thirds of the cost of public higher education and achieving the goals outlined in Equity 2030.
- 🎓 **\$5 million** for mental health resources, student basic needs, and workforce development grants.

Capital Investment

- 🎓 **\$150 million** investment in Higher Education Asset Preservation and Restoration (HEAPR).
- 🎓 Full funding of the MinnState bonding projects, including:
 - **\$19 million** for **MSU-Moorhead** Weld Hall renovation and addition.
 - **\$7.1 million** for **MSU, Mankato** Armstrong Hall design and renovation.
 - **\$4.2 million** for **Winona State** Center for Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Engagement, and Learning design.
 - **\$4.3 million** for **Metropolitan State University** Cybersecurity Lab design and renovation.
 - **\$16.9 million** for **Metropolitan State University/Minneapolis College** Management Education Center remodel.
 - **\$1.2 million** for **Southwest MN State** Wellness and Human Performance Center planning
 - **\$4.5 million** for **St. Cloud State** Education and Learning Design Complex planning
- 🎓 Repealing the statute requiring MinnState campuses to pay 1/3 debt service on all general obligation bonds. This will ease the tuition burden on all students and campuses.

State Support to Stabilize Campus Budgets

- 🎓 Additional state support for the NextGen Project to reduce burden on campuses.
- 🎓 State support for early separation incentives with language guaranteeing positions will remain.
- 🎓 State support to develop marketing, campus-to-campus outreach, and student incentives for MinnState transfer students to transfer within the system.

Equity, Inclusion, and Campus Safety

- 🎓 Legislative policies which respect the inherent worth and dignity of all students, faculty, and staff that foster an actively engaged learning community based on justice, equity, and inclusiveness.
- 🎓 Enhance campus safety by allowing state colleges and universities to use the reasonable request process to restrict campus visitors from carrying firearms.
- 🎓 Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA). IFO has joined the coalition advocating to address the lack of racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity in Minnesota's teaching force.

State Grant Reforms

- 🎓 Reforms to the State Grant Program that increase the Living and Miscellaneous Expenses (LME).
- 🎓 Reducing or restricting State Grant awards at for-profit institutions.

Protecting Academic Freedom

- 🎓 Limiting the authority of the MinnState system office and reverse administrative growth.

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- Empowering faculty to truthfully educate students, so they may critically identify and analyze forms of discrimination.

- Faculty control of all curriculum and academic decisions.

MinnState Retirement Benefit Reforms

- An increase in the employer contribution for faculty in the Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP) that matches the employer contribution for faculty in TRA.

Voting Rights

- Increasing access to vote, including expanding mail voting, automatic voter registration, and early voting.

Revenue

- Permanent state revenue increases that target those with the ability to pay their fair share and that make the tax system more fair, equitable, and just.

Labor:

- Protecting and strengthening collective bargaining and the right to organize.

- Full funding for the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

- Protection of free speech on campuses.

Federal Legislative Priorities:

Student Loan Debt Forgiveness

- Implementation of a broad-based student loan forgiveness plan is an important tool to stimulate the economy. In addition, Congress should improve existing programs that allow debt to be forgiven in exchange for public service or in cases of disability or fraud.

Increase Pell Grant Funding

- As states continue to underfund higher education, tuition is increasing. This has led to an unsustainable rise in student loan debt across the country. The increasing costs of higher education also force many students to drop out before they earn a degree. An increase in the Pell Grant will provide higher education opportunities for thousands of Americans. Prospective students should not be limited because of their economic circumstances.

Funding Free Tuition at All State Colleges and Universities

- America's future prosperity and its citizens' access to opportunity depend on increasing educational opportunities beyond high school for all students. Today's economy requires the country to make higher education affordable for everyone so we can prepare a workforce with the skills to compete in the global marketplace.

Strengthen and Protect Collective Bargaining

- Check the abuse of corporate power over labor and hold corporate executives personally accountable for violations of labor laws.

- Encourage and incentivize unionization and collective bargaining.