

## **U of M Board of Regents to discuss Central Corridor, UMore Park, act on FY2009 budget**

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The University of Minnesota Board of Regents meets later this week on the Twin Cities campus. The agenda includes taking action on an operating budget for fiscal year 2009, discussing the Central Corridor light rail project and an update on planning efforts for the university's UMore Park property in central Dakota County. Also as part of the meeting, the board conducts its annual meeting to set meeting dates for the 2008-09 academic year.

"This is a budget that is mindful of the challenging economic times in which we live, but creatively focused on forward-looking academic and budget priorities," said university President Robert Bruininks. "We've also worked diligently to enhance student financial aid, including the Founders Free Tuition Program and the middle income scholarship program, to offset necessary tuition increases."

Despite a state appropriation reduction of \$17.4 million over the current and next biennium, the proposed budget maintains investment priorities through spending reductions, internal reallocations and a tuition increase slightly lower than earlier projected: 7.25 percent for undergraduate students. With more than \$200 million in student grants and scholarships available this year, many students will see a significantly lower increase.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, June 12, 2008

8 - 10 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. The full board will hear from Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien on the Central Corridor light rail project.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on a new policy regarding international education and will be updated on the university's interdisciplinary initiatives.

10:45 - 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear a report on student leadership development activities, the annual report on UPlan, the university's employee health care plan, and a presentation on health care savings plan accounts.

1:45 - 2:45 p.m., Work session, Boardroom. The board will hear an update on UMore Park planning efforts from Vice President for Statewide Strategic Resource Development Charles Muscoplat.

3 - 5 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on a policy on historical preservation and the conservation of buildings. In addition, action will also be taken on a number of schematic plans and real estate transactions, including a 25-year agreement with the DECC in Duluth. Also, O'Brien and interim director of the Institute on the Environment Deb Swackhamer will present on the university's goals, strategies and progress on sustainability and green initiatives.

3 - 5 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review the university's policy on purchasing and discuss a variety of other issues.

Friday, June 13, 2008

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. The board conducts its annual meeting first, setting meeting dates for the next academic year. The monthly meeting convenes immediately after, where the board will review policies on both the code of ethics and reservation and delegation of authority. University of Minnesota Alumni Association president Tom LaSalle will give the annual report of that organization. The board will also act on the FY2009 operating budget, the president's annual capital improvement budget and the six-year capital improvement plan.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at [www.umn.edu/regents](http://www.umn.edu/regents).

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