

4/7/09

General University Budget Decision Principles
January 10, 2009 - Revised January 25, January 27, January 29, February 4, 2009,
Budget Advisory Group Recommendation April 2, 2009

Given the reduction in allocation to the university because of the current economic crisis, we must change some our practices and make cuts to the budget. These changes should be accomplished in ways that preserve and, where possible, advance the mission, vision and values of the strategic plan. Four distinctive characteristics embody the goal of the university to become the best comprehensive state university in the Upper Midwest, recognized by our peers as a leader in our region. These are:

- Accessibility that leads to success
- Character that reflects our region
- Education that drives knowledge to action
- A portfolio of distinctive programs

Among the choices available, those that advance or least compromise these characteristics are the most desirable. Within this context the following considerations apply:

- We will make decisions in a way that best serves our students;
- We will take into account how to serve economic development needs of the state and our community;
- We will take a multi-year approach, positioning the university for long-term financial viability.
- We will consider the impact of changes on proposed revenue, total cost of ownership and any collateral effect.
- We will act in consideration of the MnSCU Strategic Plan
- We will work toward improved efficiencies and effectiveness, including the potential for consolidation, decentralization and optimization.
- We will develop and pursue other sources of revenue including donor support, sponsorship, fee for service and others.
- We will meet all legal and regulatory requirements.
- We will use the projected net changes to the system budget to guide decisions.
- We will utilize the strategic plan and academic action plan to guide decisions.
- We will utilize relevant data that is consistently defined across the University to guide decisions.