



## Weekend Summary

Late Saturday evening, Governor Pawlenty signed the higher education bill. There were several line item vetoes, but nothing that affects the University. The bill is available [here](#) and the veto message from the governor is available [here](#). At the request of House of Representatives Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, President Bruininks and Chancellor McCormick testified Saturday regarding potential additional budget reductions, as proposed by the governor (see below), to the University and MnSCU before the Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy.

Governor Pawlenty also signed the bonding bill Saturday evening after removing \$85 million from the bill. The Bell Museum of Natural History was one of the line item vetoes. Governor Pawlenty's letter to legislative leadership explaining the vetoes is available [here](#).

Now that nearly all of the budget bills have been signed, the state is still facing a \$3 billion deficit for FY2010-11. Governor Pawlenty has sent a budget solution offer to the DFL leaders to balance the budget that includes a \$1.8 billion K-12 payment shift to the FY2012-13 biennium and an additional \$1 billion in overall budget reductions; higher education would receive \$150 million of those budget cuts. The leadership is willing to accept the governor's K-12 budget shift proposal; however, they would like to see \$1 billion in new revenues and they refuse to make additional cuts.

Constitutionally, the legislature must adjourn at midnight tonight. If no agreement is reached by then, the governor claims he will not call a special session. Rather, he will use executive order to unallot in an effort to balance the budget. If that does indeed happen, it is assumed the University will face large budget reductions.

Legislative leadership is meeting with the governor at noon today to continue their negotiation talks in an attempt to reach a budget agreement.

We will update you as the situation develops.

Sincerely,

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