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& UNIVERSITIES

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 31, 2005

**TO:** Presidents, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

**FROM:** *Linda L. Baer*  
Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Moratorium on Programs in Law Enforcement

**Background:** Academic programs to prepare licensed law enforcement officers in Minnesota must earn the approval of the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) board. Each program must include an academic component and a skills component, with separate approvals necessary for the academic program and for its skills component. A program offered at one college or university may include the approved skills component provided by another institution.

The POST board requires every state college or state university seeking approval for an academic program or the skills component to first obtain the chancellor's approval of the proposal. When conducting its evaluations, the Office of the Chancellor employs the criteria used for approval of new programs, including the need for additional or expanded facilities, anticipated expenditures for equipment and personnel, and the possibility of unnecessary duplication. The last item can be a source of disagreement between institutions that seek approval to offer the skills component and institutions that already have approval.

In 2001, the Office of the Chancellor instituted a process that state colleges and state universities must follow to receive approval to offer the skills component. Presidents and law enforcement coordinators at approved institutions participated in development of the process, which requires that the applicant institution demonstrate why a partnership with a current provider is not feasible. Despite this, the skills component has remained a source of contention.

In addition, the Citizens League and the Board of Trustees have each noted that all campuses cannot be all things to all people. All are supportive of less duplication, more specialization, coordination and collaboration. "Centers of excellence" proposed by the governor are yet another indication of this policy direction.

**Action:** In response to this situation, the Office of the Chancellor will conduct a state- and system-wide study of the need for additional law enforcement programs (both the academic and skills components), including the cost benefit of building and/or leasing facilities for skills training at additional or expanded sites. The study will occur in fiscal year 2006.

Until the study is completed and there has been time to review and consult on any study recommendations, the Office of the Chancellor will not approve additional academic programs, nor recommend to the POST board any new skills programs. Capital projects for new or expanded skills training facilities will be evaluated in light of this moratorium.

**Arrangements with Existing Providers:** The Office of the Chancellor will require that state colleges and state universities with academic programs in law enforcement arrange for delivery of the skills component through an agreement with an approved provider, or explicitly state that students are responsible for arranging their own skills component from an approved provider. The Office of the Chancellor is ready to facilitate negotiations between institutions regarding the financial arrangements.

**State-wide Study:** During fiscal year 2006, the Office of the Chancellor will study the need and capacity for the skills component of programs in law enforcement that includes the implications on facilities planning. The study will also look at trends and future needs including different or more specialized types of law enforcement training. The study will also include a review and validation of capital projects currently proposed for funding in fiscal year 2006 and beyond.

The study will be conducted by Academic Affairs staff under the purview of Policy 3.10 Academic Program Review, which states:

*“ . . . the chancellor shall report annually to the Board of Trustees on state or regional studies of academic programs or program clusters conducted by the Office of the Chancellor.”*

The Academic Affairs staff will consult with an advisory group composed of institutional administrators, faculty, staff, students, representatives of the Office of the Chancellor and representatives of the law enforcement community.

**Future Approval of Clinical Skills Instruction:** Upon completion of the study with related consultations as referenced above, the Office of the Chancellor may resume consideration of approval of the skills component at any state college or state university conditioned upon providing evidence of instruction with qualified personnel, equipment and facilities, *and* where there is a demonstrated need (student interest and occupational demand). Programs, if approved, would not commence until fiscal year 2007 or later.

c: Robert Hoffman  
James H. McCormick  
Chief Academic Officers