



# Council Communique



PRESIDENTS COUNCIL, STATE UNIVERSITIES OF MICHIGAN

March 2, 2009

## Upcoming Dates

### State Relations

#### Officers Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2009,  
1:00 pm

#### Financial Aid Officers Meeting

Wednesday, March 11,  
2009, 9:30 am

#### Legislative Luncheon

Tuesday, March 17,  
2009, 11:30 am

#### State Relations Officers Meeting

Tuesday, March 24,  
2009, 1:00 pm

#### Analytical Studies Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 26,  
2009 at 9:30 am

#### Governor's Education Summit

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

## President's Council Gathering Newspaper Articles and Editorials on the FY2010 Budget and Possible Tuition Freeze

A number of editorials have been written across the state covering the issue of inadequate funding for higher education and a possible tuition freeze. The articles are posted on the [PCSUM](#) website under News & Media. A few of the articles are highlighted below.

[Site Selection](#) How Are You Helping Companies Grow? Michigan's state university leaders respond to a single question (*Monday, February 16*)

[MIRS](#) U's: Math Doesn't Work with 3% Cut, Freeze (*Thursday, February 12*)

[The Detroit Free Press](#) Some Doubt Granholm's Tuition Freeze will aid Students (*Thursday, February 5*)

[Mlive](#) Higher Education is Key to Rebuilding Economy (*Sunday, January 25*)

[Lansing State Journal](#) Michigan, Find Money for Universities (*Sunday, January 25*)

Even student written university papers are getting the point.

[The State News](#) Granholm to ask for halt on tuition increases (*Sunday, February 1*)

[The Michigan Daily](#) Granholm calls for tuition freeze (*February 3rd*)

[The Grand Valley Lanthorn](#) A Bad Freeze (*Wednesday, February 4*)

## In This Issue

The Presidents Council Launches New Website

2009 Professor of the Year Award Recipients Announced

Governor's Education Summit Reminder

Letter to the Legislature: Don't Cut Taxes

Legislative Luncheon was a Great Success

Intern in Michigan Site Goes Live

What's New with the Council Committees

## President's Council Provides Opening Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education

Higher Education is the key to restoring the prosperity of the State of Michigan. Michael Boulus testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education on Tuesday, February 17 to make sure they remember just that.

The presentation focused on the traits of prosperous states, the benefits of higher education, and funding for higher education in Michigan.

To obtain a copy of the presentation, go to [www.pcsu.org](http://www.pcsu.org).

## President's Council to hold Legislative Luncheon

The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan will be hosting a Legislative Luncheon at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing on Tuesday, March 17 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The event, "Michigan Economy in the Balance: The case for funding Higher Education," will feature a presentation by Michael Boulus.

If you would like more information or to attend please contact Robyn Cline at 517-482-1563.

## President Rao Announces Resignation

The President's Council would like to say goodbye to Dr. Michael Rao, the 12th President of Central Michigan University. He will go on to become the president at Virginia Commonwealth University after his effective resignation at the conclusion of this academic year.

President Rao will continue working prior to his departure on many strategic projects to ensure continuity and a seamless transition.

Dr. Rao's hard work, sincerity, and devotion to CMU, Michigan, and to the higher education community will be greatly missed by all members of the President's Council. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in the future.

## The President's Council welcomes MTU's new Provost, Max Seel

Max Seel, professor of physics and longtime dean of the College of Sciences and Arts at Michigan Technological University, has been named interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at MTU.

Professor Seel received a Ph.D. in computational solid state physics/theoretical chemistry from the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg and spent a postdoctoral year at the IBM research laboratory in San Jose, California. He taught at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg until joining the Michigan Tech physics faculty in 1986.

## Boulus writes on Facts about the Michigan Budget

Michael Boulus and Arnold Weinfeld, of the Michigan Municipal League, co-authored a letter to the editor that appeared in the Lansing State Journal on Sunday, March 1. The letter is titled: Some facts about the Michigan budget. To read the article, click on the link below.

[Michael Boulus and Arnold Weinfeld: Some facts about the Michigan budget](#)

## Governor's Education Summit Registration

Since 1995, the Governor's Education Summit has worked in collaboration with the Governor's office and the Michigan Department of Education to engage individuals in discussion about important issues in education.

The Governor's Education Summit is co-hosted by the Michigan Foundation for Education Leadership and the Education Alliance of Michigan. Here, Governor Granholm will launch the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) with the goal of putting Michigan students on the path to postsecondary education. This common goal will bring together foundations, business and labor organizations, the faith-based community, K-12 schools, and postsecondary education institutions. PCSUM would like to invite you to attend. It is a great opportunity to learn more about MCAN and to insure the network addresses your needs.

The 14th Annual Governor's Education Summit will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at the Causeway Hotel in Lansing.

[Register to attend](#)

[More Information](#)

## Last Month's Meetings Held at the President's Council Office

Among many other topics, our committees met last month to discuss some of the following:

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board met to approve the PCSUM Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policies, and the Legal Officers' Constitutional Status of Michigan's Public Universities documents. The primary focus of the meeting was on the Federal Stimulus Package and the FY2010 and 2011 budgets, which included discussions with Governor Jennifer Granholm, Bob Emerson, State Budget Director and Chuck Wilber, Granholm's Deputy for Policy and Planning.

### **Business Affairs Officers Meeting**

The Business Affairs Officers discussed the Governor's budget and her call for a tuition freeze, the Federal Stimulus Package, and had a special presentation by Energy Education on a transformational energy management process.

### **Legal Affairs Officers Meeting**

The Legal Affairs Officers reviewed the Constitutional Status of Michigan's Public Universities document, FERPA amendments, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Employee Free Choice Act, as well as new PCSUM Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies.

### **Public Information Officers Meeting**

The Public Information Officers discussed new programs such as Intern in Michigan and the Detroit Public TV Jobs Now Campaign. They also received a presentation by Issues Media Group, who is helping transform the PCSUM Website by focusing more on how the public universities in Michigan are contributing to the state's needs for talent, innovation and economic development. Over lunch, the group talked about different communication techniques each university is utilizing within and outside the institution.

**State Relations Officers Meeting**

The State Relations Officers discussed the Governor's call for a tuition freeze, the Tuition Tax Credit (PA 7 of 1995), the Federal Stimulus Package, and other Legislative bills.

**Student Affairs Officers Meeting**

The Student Affairs Officers discussed recent student safety issues such as dormitory security, auxiliary administrative overhead and mental health. In addition the committee discussed the potential pros and cons of being involved in the Veterans Educational Assistance Act.