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For Immediate Release

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NEWS COLUMN

EMAIL UPDATE: UMN REGENTS AND SCHOOL START DATES

Greetings from the Capitol,

There is some hot news out of the Capitol, and to keep you informed and on the cusp of breaking news I'm sending out this email update.

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1. University of Minnesota Regents Elected

Today, in a special joint session, House and Senate members elected four individuals to fill open seats on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota.

They are:

- from the 1st Congressional District, Patricia Simmons of Rochester (currently chairwoman of the board);
- from the 4th Congressional District, Richard Beeson of St. Paul (Richard Beeson is the only new regent to be elected);
- from the 6th Congressional District, current regent John Frobineus of St. Cloud; and
- from the 7th Congressional District, current board vice chair Clyde Allen Jr. of Moorhead.

All four were recommended last week by the joint House and Senate committee on regent selection. Members of the board, which serves as the university's governing body, serve staggered six-year terms. The legislature elects one Regent from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts and four from the state at large. One of the four at-large Regents must be a University student at the time of election. Regents serve without pay for six-year terms. The president of the University is ex officio president of the Board.

If you would like to learn more about the Board of Regents please visit <http://www1.umn.edu/regents/regents.html>.

2. Early School Start Fails

The House Finance Committee today voted down a bill that would give local control to school district in choosing a start date for their schools for the next two years. Current state law requires schools not start before Labor Day.

With Labor Day falling on September 7th this year, and September 6th next year, it would mean a late start for schools. To compensate that late start schools would have to stay in session longer into June.

The bill was opposed because of the potential fiscal impacts it would have on the Tourist Industry in Minnesota. It's estimated allowing earlier school start dates would cost \$1.18 million in lost sales tax revenue from about 800 small Minnesota resorts alone. Labor Day weekend is usually a large travel weekend with families having one last hurrah before the school year.

But while this bill died in the Finance Committee it is not completely dead. I'm certain it will appear on the House Floor as an amendment to the Omnibus Education Bill.

As always, I would encourage you to contact me on any legislative issue or questions you may have. You can reach me via email at rep.peggy.scott@house.mn, by phone at (651) 296-4231, or by U.S. Mail at Rep. Peggy Scott, 225 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,
Peggy