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June 13

Quick Takes: $2B Victory for Enron Investors, Minnesota Restructures, Rose-Hulman Chief Quits, Smoother Sailing, Grade Changes at Dodge City, PR Gaffe at Colorado

- Citigroup has agreed to pay $2 billion to entities that invested in Enron under an agreement in a class action lawsuit led by the University of California. The suit charged Citigroup with helping Enron defraud investors. Due to the large volume of Enron investors, it was not immediately clear how much of the settlement will go to the university system.

- The University of Minnesota Board of Regents on Friday approved a restructuring plan that backers say will focus resources on key programs and allow the institution to become one of the top public universities in the United States. Critics are especially upset over portions of the plan that downgrade General College, the academic unit through which many minority and low-income students have been admitted to the university.

- The president of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology resigned Saturday after less than a year in office, the institution announced. Since becoming president last July, Jack Midgley had faced criticism, including a no confidence vote, from the faculty and from some students.

- The University of Pittsburgh and Semester at Sea have announced an out-of-court settlement that institution will continue Pitt’s sponsorship of academic credit for the program through the spring 2006 semester. Pitt recently announced that it would sever ties to the popular study-abroad program, citing concerns about safety.

- A former secretary at Dodge City Community College pleaded guilty in a Kansas court last week
to forgery and to making false information in connection with changing students’ grades at Dodge City Community College, the Associated Press reported. The AP quoted Dawn Kortz, the former secretary, as saying that she wanted to help the students.

- As detailed on Romenesko, a journalism Web site, a University of Colorado public relations official sent an e-mail to a colleague saying that a local reporter “isn’t the sharpest knife in the drawer.” And — oops — the e-mail ended up getting forwarded to the reporter.

— Scott Jaschik

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