University of Minnesota regents will not delay a June 10 vote on a plan to overhaul the university programs, including a controversial move to close General College.

"I think we owe it to all the people affected" not to put off the June vote, Regents Chairman dav after Friday's board meeting. Twelve DFL senators — including Metzen's brother, Sen. James — wrote regents earlier in the week asking the board to put off a decision until November to get more input.

No delay means that those opposing the plan to close General College are down to their last few protests. General College supporters rallied again Friday.

Metzen and other regents said they would wait until after a public forum Monday before making a decision. They were elected in the early hours of Friday morning to put off a decision until November to get more input.

Bruininks continued to press for changes that he says will help transform the university into one of the top public research institutions.

While much of the package has been embraced, Bruininks expected a fight over General College. His plan has been praised by students and parents who support the idea of a new General College.

Bruininks' plan would turn General College into a department within the college of education. His mission of helping academically struggling students would be kept and offered across campus.

But in perhaps his strongest words yet on the subject, Bruininks told regents that the graduation rate of students starting at General College was "intolerably low" and said the university would fall short of its goals to boost graduation rates if General College stayed in its current form.

Fewer than 10 percent of the students who start in General College graduate from the university.
compared to 32 percent overall on the Twin Cities campus. The U's 2012 goal is a 50 percent graduation rate and a 75 percent six-year rate.

General College supporters say graduation rates are a university-wide problem, and that other haven't done enough to keep students on track after they transfer from General College.

The greatest divide seems to be over what the future holds for students of color and low-income Twin Cities campus without General College.

Supporters don't believe the university will maintain its ethnic and racial diversity if General Coll department in the College of Education. They see its closing as a sign that university leaders are interested in global reputations than in serving Minnesotans, a charge the administration denies.

Metzen said the Monday public forum "is going to be very important" to the board's ultimate dec

Other parts of Bruininks' plan include:

• Closing the College of Human Ecology and moving its programs to other colleges.

• Merging the College of Natural Resources into the College of Agriculture.

• A new College of Design that would include the current college of architecture.

• A campus honors program. Officials initially called this an Honors College, but its form and de: for discussion.

• A new emphasis on undergraduate writing.

What's next

• Regents hold a public forum 10 a.m. Monday on the sixth floor of the McNamara Alumni Buildi

• Regents are expected to vote on the plan June 10.

• University Senate, an advisory body of faculty, staff and students, approved the plan overwhelm undergraduate student government group narrowly voted to keep General College intact. The C Black Churches/African American Leadership Summit backed a resolution this week to keep G

• To find pertinent university documents, go to www.umn.edu and type "strategic positioning prc search engine.

• Supporters of General College are fighting its closure. Read the responses of General College www.gen.umn.edu.

Paul Tosto covers higher education and can be reached at ptosto@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-2119.