University Senate endorses strategic positioning by 120 to 3 vote

What: Plan to make the University of Minnesota one of the top three public research universities in the world gets broad-based support from University Senate

Contact: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (4/29/2005) -- The University of Minnesota’s plan to become one of the top three public research universities in the world gained some strong support from students, faculty and staff this week as the University Senate voted 120 to 3 in favor of a resolution supporting the effort.

"Becoming one of the best in the world is unquestionably a team effort," said university President Robert Bruininks. "I’m pleased the University Senate so strongly supports the work we’re doing and is committed to continued involvement to achieve our goal."

Strategic positioning is important because of “the increasingly rapid change in the structure of knowledge and the pressures on the University arising from decreasing state funding,” the senate resolution stated. Specifically, the senate praised the creation of enhanced writing and honors education.

In addition to the University Senate, the strategic positioning effort has received support from 21 Twin Cities campus deans, 31 Distinguished McKnight University Professors and Regents Professors, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and a wide range of university and community leaders.

The University Senate includes representatives of students, faculty, staff and all University of Minnesota campuses.

Complete information on the University of Minnesota’s strategic positioning effort can be found at www.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning

The complete University Senate resolution can be found at www1.umn.edu/usenate/usen/Resolution-final.pdf.