WAYS & MEANS

U. of Minnesota to Close 2 Colleges and Open an Honors College in Bid for Global Recognition

By SARA HEBEL

The University of Minnesota wants to become one of the top three public research institutions in the world within a decade.

To achieve that goal, two university committees recommended last month that the system add an honors college and close two longstanding colleges at the flagship Twin Cities campus to help the university system better focus its resources and coordinate academic programs.

Under the proposals, the university would close its General College, which for more than 70 years has provided academic assistance to students who enter the university unprepared for college-level work.

The College of Human Ecology would also close. It began more than a century ago as a home-economics program but has since diversified to offer courses in subjects areas such as social work and nutrition.

Robert H. Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota System, will now review the proposals. In May he will make his own recommendations to the system's Board of Regents, which will vote in June on which reforms to adopt.

Mr. Bruininks said the university is at a "crossroads" and must reshape itself to better confront economic, social,
and global challenges, such as growing competition for scarce dollars and for top students and faculty members. "Today the university is a strong and vibrant institution," Mr. Bruininks said, "but we can't assume that the future will take care of itself."

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