

**2020 STATE RELATIONS REGULAR
SESSION, 1ST SPECIAL SESSION, AND
2ND SPECIAL SESSION SUMMARY**



While every legislative session is inherently unpredictable, the COVID-19 pandemic defied all predictions, overshadowed previous priorities, and imposed unprecedented changes in the legislative process.

Leading up to the February 11 start of session, the Minnesota State Capitol was buzzing with possibility. In even-numbered years, the Minnesota Legislature historically passes a large bonding bill to fund capital investment projects across the state. Additionally, the November state budget and economic forecast projected a surplus of \$1.3 billion in FY20-21. At the University of Minnesota, the Board of Regents approved a \$317.2 million capital request, and President Joan Gabel began introducing herself to state legislators.

Just as the pace of the session was about to pick up in March, COVID-19 hit Minnesota. All eyes turned to federal and state governments for response and relief. While Governor Walz issued a stay-at-home order, the Minnesota Legislature adopted new policies to allow for remote committee meetings and voting, and quickly passed several COVID-19 finance and policy bills. On April 10, Minnesota Management and Budget released an unprecedented April economic and budget report projecting a \$2.426 billion deficit for the current biennium – almost a \$4 billion decrease from February’s forecast.

Two days before the constitutionally mandated end of session, both the House and Senate attempted to pass bonding bills but failed to get enough votes. On May 18, the Minnesota Legislature adjourned sine die without resolving major issues, including bonding, taxes, oversight of COVID-19 federal funds, and state employee contract ratification. The governor quickly eluded to a special session on June 12, not only to address these issues but also to extend the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency for another 30 days.

The death of George Floyd further increased the political pressure for a special session, adding police reform and economic assistance due to the civil unrest to the list of pressing issues. On June 12, the Minnesota Legislature convened the special session called by the governor. However, after one week of trying to reach an agreement on the majority of outstanding issues, the House and Senate adjourned the special session sine die.

Governor Walz called for a second special session on July 13, to extend the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency for another 30 days. The House once again attempted to pass a bonding bill, but due to competing political priorities unrelated to bonding, the bill failed to get enough votes. The legislature passed two bills, including the Minnesota Police Accountability Act, before adjourning the second special session sine die on July 21.

LEGISLATURE BY THE NUMBERS

137
MEN

29
ALUMNI LEGISLATORS

75/59
HOUSE DFL / GOP

64
WOMEN

21
LEGISLATORS OF COLOR

32/35
SENATE DFL / GOP

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMELINE

January

- 13 Governor Walz announces his bonding recommendations, proposing \$224.2 million for four U of M requested projects.

February

- 04 Two special elections are held; both parties hold onto their respective seats: Paul Novotny (R - Elk River) wins District 30A, and Sydney Jordan (DFL - Minneapolis) wins District 60A.
- 11 The legislature convenes for the 2020 regular session.
- 18 President Joan Gabel, faculty, and students present the University's capital request to the House and Senate higher education committees.
- 20 President Gabel presents the University's HEAPR request to the House Capital Investment Division.
- 27 Minnesota Management and Budget announces the state's projected surplus for FY20-21 has grown to \$1.5 billion, up from \$1.3 billion in November.

March

- 03 Vice President Mike Berthelsen testifies to the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Division in support of the capital request.
- 09 The House and Senate pass a COVID-19 response bill.
- 10 President Joan Gabel presents the University's preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic to the Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.
- 13 Governor Walz declares a peacetime state of emergency.
- 18 The House and Senate recess until April 14 or "whenever necessary."
- 26 The House and Senate reconvene to pass another COVID-19 response bill. The House passes Temporary House Rule 10.01 to allow for distance voting and remote committee hearings.

April

- 07 The Senate passes Temporary Senate Rule No. 12.1 to allow for distance voting and remote committee hearings.
- 10 Minnesota Management and Budget releases its April economic and budget report projecting an unprecedented \$2.426 billion deficit for the current biennium – almost a \$4 billion decrease from February's economic forecast.
- 22 Governor Walz announces a "moonshot" partnership with the U of M and Mayo Clinic to expand COVID-19 testing capacity.



President Gabel and House Speaker Melissa Hortman at a meet and greet event in July 2019.



The University hosted eight bonding tours before the legislative session.



Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause welcomed the Senate Capital Investment Committee to the Crookston campus.

May

- 16 The House votes on a \$2 billion bonding bill, including \$161.9 million for four U of M requested projects, but the bill fails to get the required three-fifths majority needed to pass.
- 17 The Senate votes on a \$998 million bonding bill, including \$85 million for two U of M requested projects, but fails to get the required three-fifths majority needed to pass.
- 18 The Minnesota Legislature adjourns sine die, as constitutionally mandated.

June

- 10 Governor Walz calls for a special session.
- 12 Minnesota Legislature convenes the first special session.
- 15 The Senate Capital Investment Committee passes a \$1.13 billion bonding bill.
- 20 The Minnesota Legislature adjourns the first special session sine die.

July

- 10 Governor calls a second special session.
- 13 The legislature convenes the second special session.
- 20 The House votes on a \$1.35 billion bonding bill, including more than \$85.38 million for four U of M requested projects, but the bill fails to get the required three-fifths majority needed to pass.
- 21 Minnesota Legislature adjourns sine die.



On January 13, Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan announced their bonding recommendations at the U of M's Child Development Building.



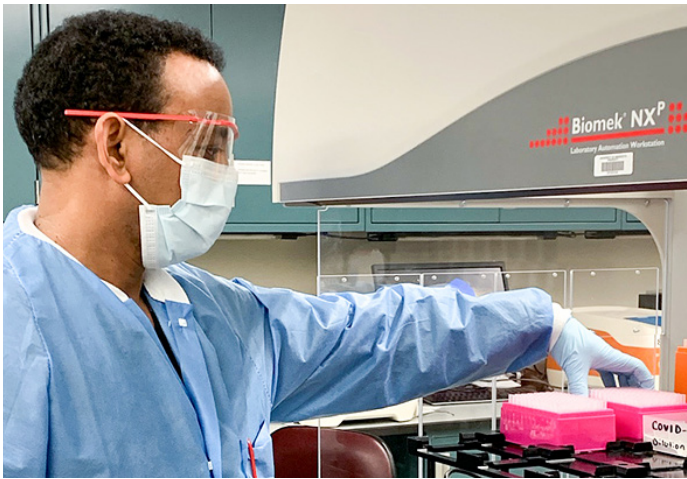
Commissioner Myron Frans and Minnesota Management and Budget staff toured the Chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory project request.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Project Name	Project Total	U of M Investment	State Request	Governor	House Regular Session	Senate Regular Session	Senate 1st Special Session	House 2nd Special Session	Final
Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR)	\$200.0	—	\$200.0	\$125.0	\$125.0	\$55.8	\$65.8	\$48.5	—
Child Development Building Replacement	\$43.8	\$14.6	\$29.2	\$29.2	\$29.2	\$29.2	\$29.2	\$29.2	—
A.B. Anderson Hall Capital Renewal	\$6.6	\$2.2	\$4.4	\$4.4	\$4.4	—	—	\$4.4	—
Chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory	\$98.4	\$32.8	\$65.6	\$65.6	\$3.3	—	—	\$3.3	—
Clinical Research Facility-Design	\$27.0	\$9.0	\$18.0	—	*	*	*	*	—
TOTAL	\$375.8	\$58.6	\$317.2	\$224.2	\$161.9	\$85.0	\$95.0	\$85.4	—

* Allows the Board of Regents to refinance bonds for the Biomedical Science Research Facility and use any savings for the Clinical Research Facility design, land acquisition, site preparation, and preconstruction services.

Dollar amounts in millions and rounded up. Projects are listed in descending order of priority.



COVID-19 LAWS RELEVANT TO THE UNIVERSITY

March 10 - Chapter 66: Appropriates \$20.9 million in FY20 from the general fund to the public health response contingency account.

March 17 - Chapter 70: Creates the Health Care Response Fund. Provides \$50 million from the general fund to the public health response contingency account and \$150 million from the general fund to the Health Care Response Fund.

March 28 - Chapter 71: Creates the COVID-19 Minnesota Fund. Allows the commissioner of higher education to modify or waive statutory requirements or administrative rules relating to work study; SELF loans; state grants; or student grants, aid, and scholarships.

April 15 - Chapter 74: Extends provisions of the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act.

May 12 - Chapter 81: Extends the COVID-19 Minnesota Fund.

May 18 - Chapter 97: Extends provisions of the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act.

May 27 - Chapter 116: Grants the commissioner of education and the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board emergency powers.



COVID-19 HEALTH CARE RESPONSE GRANT AWARDS

Chapter 70 created the Health Care Response Fund, authorizing the commissioner of health to award grants to support the capacity of eligible organizations to plan for, prepare for, and respond to an outbreak of a communicable disease. The U of M was awarded the following grants:

APRIL

\$350,000

U OF M PHYSICIANS

\$61,000

BOYNTON HEALTH

\$186,483

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY
HEALTH CARE CENTER

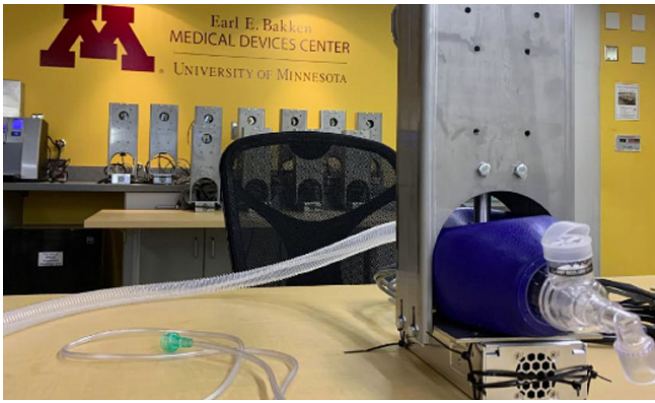
MAY

\$8,105,000

U OF M PHYSICIANS

\$20,886

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY
HEALTH CARE CENTER



COVID-19 TESTING

On April 22, Governor Tim Walz announced that the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic would create a central testing command center in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health to increase the capacity of COVID-19 testing across the state, to as many as 20,000 Minnesotans per day.

At the press conference, Dr. Jakub Tolar, dean of the Medical School and vice president for clinical affairs, explained how University researchers developed an original testing platform to

circumvent the supply shortages for commercial testing kits. To support this effort, the Minnesota Department of Health allocated \$18 million to the U of M and \$18 million to Mayo Clinic from the COVID-19 Minnesota fund.

In April, Dr. Tolar and Dr. Anthony Killeen, director of clinical laboratories, both testified on the University's COVID-19 testing capabilities before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.



“This is a complex health challenge. It is only fitting that two of Minnesota’s pre-eminent research institutions answer the call together in our commitment to tackling this pandemic.”

**DR. JAKUB TOLAR, DEAN OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL
AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR CLINICAL AFFAIRS**

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION

REGULAR SESSION LAWS



CHAPTER 101 - AGRICULTURE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET OMNIBUS

The law reduces the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer account appropriation by \$100,000 in FY21 and mandates that \$675,000 of the appropriation in FY21 is for testing equipment and supplies for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and that up to \$1 million each year is for research on avian influenza, salmonella, and other turkey-related diseases.



CHAPTER 109 - HIGHER EDUCATION OMNIBUS

The law allows the Office of Higher Education to collect processing fees from in-state institutions, including the U of M, applying to participate in the interstate reciprocity agreement.



CHAPTER 115 - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS

The law allows a person who has been screened for breast or cervical cancer by any Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program-funded breast and cervical cancer control program to be eligible for medical assistance if they meet additional criteria. The law also ensures continued coverage for medical assistance enrollees who participate in clinical trials.

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION LAWS



CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND EXTENSIONS

The law extends any appropriation or grant of money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund that would otherwise cancel, lapse, or expire on June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021, if the recipient notifies the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and modifies the applicable work plan where required. (To date, the legislature has not passed a new Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund bill this year.)

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION LAWS



MINNESOTA POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The law includes a ban on warrior training and chokeholds. It requires law enforcement officers to intercede and report the use of excessive force by a fellow police officer.



2020 BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The Minnesota Legislature has introduced 3,982 bills this year. Since this year marked the second year of the biennium, all 5,421 bills from the 2019 legislative session remained active during the regular session.

REGULAR SESSION

1,708

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE SENATE

1,774

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE HOUSE

21

LAWS RELEVANT TO U OF M

1ST SPECIAL SESSION

163

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE SENATE

170

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE HOUSE

4

LAWS RELEVANT TO U OF M

2ND SPECIAL SESSION

68

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE SENATE

99

BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE HOUSE

1

LAWS RELEVANT TO U OF M

FISCAL NOTES

Fiscal notes are requested by legislators to help them understand the fiscal implications of legislation. A fiscal note estimates the expenditures and revenue that will result from the implementation of proposed legislation. Government and Community Relations works with University faculty and staff to respond to all U of M fiscal note requests from the Minnesota Legislature.

23

FISCAL NOTES REQUESTED BY THE STATE DURING THE REGULAR SESSION



Read new laws relevant to the U of M

z.umn.edu/legislation

ADVOCACY

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, UMN Advocates had another great year of advocacy. Like many other Capitol events, the University's annual Support the U Day event was canceled, and traditional phone banking efforts were not feasible. However, advocates turned to email and social media to overwhelmingly voice their support for the U of M's capital request.

UMN ADVOCATES

8,812
EMAILS SENT

314
#RENEWUMN
TWEETS

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFASTS

600+
REGISTRATIONS

#1
#RENEWUMN
TRENDED LOCALLY ON
JANUARY 28



MEDIA

President Gabel, members of the Board of Regents, students, alumni, and advocates used the media to highlight the benefits of the University's capital improvement request. Through letters to the editor and interviews, advocates appeared in the Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio News, Twin Cities Public Television, Forum Communications, Duluth News Tribune, Owatonna People's Press, Minnesota Daily, and elsewhere.

8 OP-EDS & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
IN 7 DIFFERENT NEWSPAPERS



LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF BREAKFASTS HIGHLIGHTS



Chandi Katoch
@ChandiKatoch

Thank you to all who came to the @UMRochester Civic Engagement Breakfast! I am excited to see UMR Student Advocacy! @UMNAdvocates @MayorNorton #RenewUMN



10:22 AM · Feb 27, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone



University of Minnesota Crookston
@UMNCrookston

@UMNCrookston welcomed Mike Miller, Legislative Advocacy Coordinator to campus.

Each campus hosted an event designed to provide the campus community with the background needed to be more effective when contacting lawmakers on behalf of the U of M. @UMNadvocates #RenewUMN



10:22 AM · Feb 4, 2020 · TweetDeck



Lisa Lewis @llewis89 · Jan 28

@UMNews advocates are out in full force at the Legislative Kickoff Breakfast. Thanks to the @UMNAlumni, faculty, staff and students for raising their voices to #RenewUMN. #mnleg



5 6



Lisa Paulson (Rahkola)
@pauls640

Great to see @UMNDuluth students sharing their story as @UMNAdvocates why they love and want to support UMD at the Legislative breakfast this morning. #renewUMN #umdproud @GovTimWalz @ErikSimonson



8:39 AM · Feb 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone



Morris Campus Student Association @UMNMorrisMCSA · Feb 1

Thanks to all old and new @UMNAdvocates who helped kickoff the legislative session at UMN Morris this Thursday! Collectively, we can make change! #RenewUMN



1 3

UNIVERSITY EXPERTS AT THE CAPITOL

BRINGING THE U TO YOU

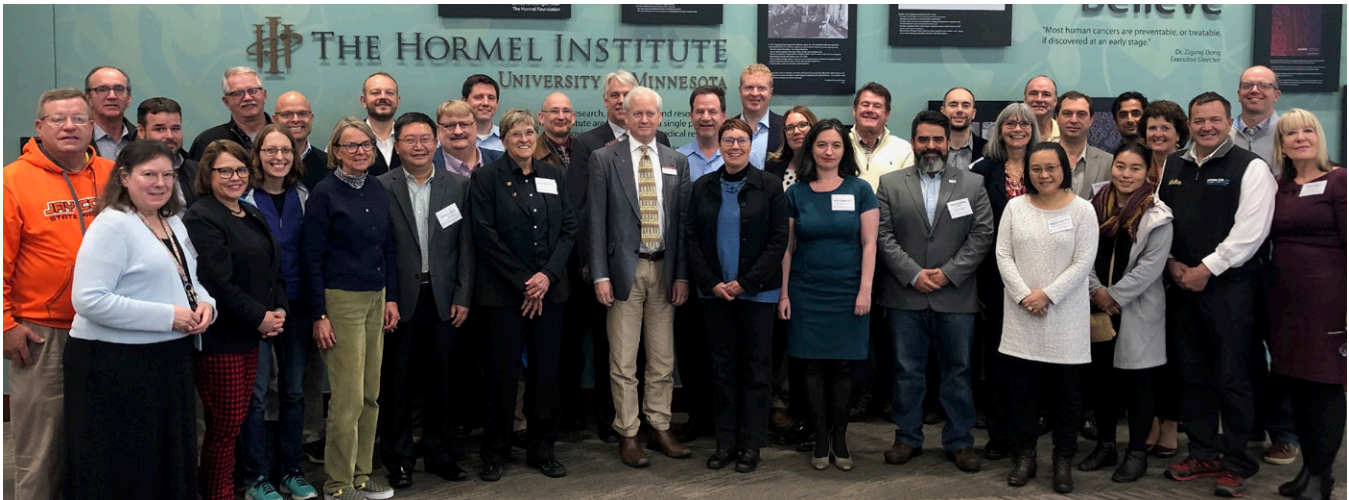
In the months leading up to the legislative session, the following U of M researchers presented their work to legislators and staff at the State Capitol:

- **Keeping our food safe:** Amy Kircher, director, Food Protection and Defense Institute
- **Criminal justice reform:** Kelly Mitchell, executive director, Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- **Cancer research:** Chris Pennell, associate professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

HOUSE AND SENATE HEARINGS

The Minnesota Legislature relies on expert testimony from the U of M, demonstrating the value of Minnesota's only research university. We are grateful to all University faculty, staff, and students who took time to share their expertise and help guide policymakers in their deliberations at the State Capitol this session. Here are a few examples (although not a complete list) from the 2020 regular session:

- **Pretrial and trial issues and race:** Perry Moriearty, associate professor, Law School
- **Sustainability practices:** Shane Stennes, director of sustainability, Department of Facilities Management
- **Chronic wasting disease:** Dr. Peter Larsen, assistant professor, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences; Dr. Michael Osterholm, director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
- **Climate change and precipitation:** Mark Seeley, professor emeritus, Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
- **Climate change and wastewater:** Paige Novak, professor, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering
- **Climate change and rainwater:** Joe Magner, research professor, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering
- **Energy storage:** Dr. Rolf Weberg, executive director, Natural Resources Research Institute; Ellen Anderson, executive director, Energy Transition Lab
- **Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy:** Dr. Traci LaLiberte, executive director, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare
- **Solar gardens:** Gabe Chan, assistant professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- **Raptor protection:** Julia Ponder, associate professor, College of Veterinary Medicine
- **Measuring the achievement gap:** Dr. Michael Rodriguez, co-director, Educational Equity Resource Center, and CEHD associate dean for undergraduate education, diversity, and international initiatives
- **Pharmacogenomics:** Dr. Pamala Jacobson, Distinguished Professor and associate department head, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology
- **Tobacco use and cancer:** Douglas Yee, director, Masonic Cancer Center
- **Cancer reporting systems:** Logan Spector, professor, Department of Pediatrics



Before the start of session, legislators toured the Hormel Institute and learned about cancer research.

UNIVERSITY TOURS



In September, legislators and staff toured the Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory on the Mississippi River.

In addition to several bonding and individual tours, Government Relations hosted legislators and staff for tours of the following University research labs:

- **Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center**
- **Precision Agriculture Center**

RETIREMENTS

As both the House and Senate are up for election in November, several legislators have announced their retirements. In the House, six GOP and eight DFL members are retiring, including Representative Bud Nornes, minority lead and former chair of the Higher Education Finance and Policy Division. In the Senate, two GOP and two DFL members are retiring, including Senator Paul Anderson, who currently serves as the chair of the Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.



If Governor Walz seeks to renew his peacetime emergency powers for another 30 days, the legislature is likely to convene a third special session in August. The following issues remain unresolved:

- **Capital investment (bonding)**
- **Taxes**
- **Supplemental budget bill**

If a third special session is not called, we look forward to working with you when the 2021 legislative session convenes on January 5, 2021.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS STAFF



J.D. Burton

Chief Government Relations Officer
jdburton@umn.edu / 612-625-1445



Kelly Mellberg

Director of State Relations
mellberg@umn.edu / 612-626-7372



Mike Miller

Advocacy Coordinator
mill1231@umn.edu / 612-626-4596



Keyya Steel

Program Manager
keyya@umn.edu / 612-625-5512



Erick Garcia Luna

Director of Community and Local Government Relations
garci128@umn.edu / 612-624-8318



Sarah Neimeyer

Director of Federal Relations
neimeyer@umn.edu / 202-624-3590



Janet Kendra

Executive Assistant
kendr008@umn.edu / 612-624-7324