IT Enterprise Spending Guidelines:

To ensure that the special IT funding allocation is spent in accordance with the Board of Trustees' intent, each College or University should allocate this special funding in support of the appropriate institutional efforts in implementing the 8 key projects proposed in the 08-09 legislative funding request.

Eight Key IT Projects

Network and Data Center Modernization
The network and data center modernization will provide around-the-clock availability for all learning, research, and administrative systems. The modernization effort also includes implementing procedures and technologies for business continuity and disaster recovery.

Security Management
The security management project will ensure that the network, systems, and databases, which currently contain records for 6.4 million people, are not compromised and that our systems and policies comply with the law and Board policies related to security and privacy.

Identity Management
The identity management project will enable trusted collaboration and resource sharing between MnSCU institutions and with K-12, higher education, government and industry. The identity management infrastructure will also allow us to limit data and system access, both at the system and at the campus level, to those who need it for legitimate reasons.

Retooled Administrative Systems
The systems currently in use for all faculty, staff and administrators will be migrated to present day technologies in order to keep running. The system changes will be accompanied by documentation, training, and other support materials. Tools for reporting and assessment will be greatly expanded to allow better tracking of metrics, including student success and retention.

New Technology Architecture
A new, flexible technology architecture will enable innovation and preserve the ability of individual institutions to systematically customize and enhance core, systemwide applications while implementing identified best business practices and preserving data integrity and systemwide business/academic seamless operations. A modular architecture will allow us to realize the benefits of economies of scale while still allowing for institutional variation within an interoperable technology framework.

Student Services & Online Learning
Investments in our online learning and electronic student services will allow us to keep pace with increasing demand while also expanding access and opportunities for the growing pool of non-traditional learners. Enhancing online functions will go beyond learning and include online career planning, disability services, advising and business functions. Around-the-clock help and support for accessing the new online services will also be provided.

Faculty Research & Development
Faculty need help to manage diverse classrooms and support their research and development activities. Severe funding constraints have prevented us from helping faculty to use existing technology well – much less provide enhanced technology for their use. Faculty will receive more and better automated tools to help communicate with students, manage their classrooms and simplify reporting. Faculty will also begin to receive extensive training on administrative tools as well as eLearning tools.