

January 11, 2023

The Honorable Omar Fateh  
Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee  
3219 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Fateh,

It is with great pleasure that I write to share our strong support for the confirmation of Dennis Olson, Jr. as Commissioner of Higher Education in Minnesota.

We have come to know Commissioner Olson well at the University of Minnesota, first when he was a student at the University, then as an employee, and now as a leader of the Department of Higher Education. Throughout this time, Commissioner Olson has served our state with distinction. He has uplifted our students, helped boost our nation-leading work around innovation and discovery, and prepared future leaders at the U of M to help grow Minnesota's economy.

We are committed to giving all Minnesotans the tools they need to further their career, improve their lives, and meet their professional and personal goals. We know that Commissioner Olson shares this passion with us, and will work tirelessly on behalf of Minnesotans to ensure that everyone—no matter their race, gender, or economic status—has a chance to improve their life through education and public service.

On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff across Minnesota, we respectfully request that you give Commissioner Olson a strong vote of support to continue his role as Commissioner of Higher Education.

Thank you.



Joan T. A. Gabel  
President

cc: Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic  
Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson