

state  
university  
system

office of the chancellor



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860355

January 14, 1986

The Honorable Gerald L. Willet  
Chair, Senate Finance  
121 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Willet:

Laws of Minnesota, 1985, Chapter 11, Section 6, Subdivision 4 provides that "the State University Board shall continue to ensure that classroom teaching assistants for whom English is a second language are proficient in speaking and writing English. The Board shall report the actions it is taking on this matter to the Legislature by January 15, 1986."

The Chancellor's Office has reviewed the practices of the universities within the System who currently employ teaching assistants. The vast majority of teaching assistants in the System are native speakers of English. For those few teaching assistants for whom English is a second language, special support programs are in place for those who need additional assistance in improving their spoken English. The State University System will continue to monitor this issue, although at the present time, we do not believe a problem exists.

If we can provide you with additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Kaplan".

Sheila Kaplan  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SK/sdh

cc: Dave Buelow, Fiscal Analyst

*Same letter to Ben Waldorf*