MEMORANDUM

June 17, 2013

TO: Brian Herman, Vice President for Research

FROM: Eric W. Kaler, President

RE: MnDRIVE Implementation

This session the state invested in the University of Minnesota for the first time in six years. A significant part of this investment is funding for a targeted research initiative focused on areas of strength for the University and the state.

The Minnesota Discovery Research InnoVation Economy (MnDRIVE) funding program will invest in groundbreaking research. Its purpose is to discover new knowledge through scientific research to: a) advance Minnesota’s economy; b) seize opportunities to leverage Minnesota’s competitive advantage; c) improve Minnesotan’s health and quality of life; and d) advance capacity and competitiveness of Minnesota industries and position our state as a national leader in key industries.

As a part of your role as Vice President for Research, I charge you with the responsibility of implementing this program, in consultation with chancellors, deans, faculty, and the budget office. It is critical that the University is accountable for these funds and that this initiative produce excellence. To that end, I expect the implementation plan to ensure funding is distributed in an effective and efficient manner, and that you establish a fair and transparent process supported by robust internal and external communications.

MnDRIVE was established to move University research from good to great, advance interdisciplinary work, and solve critical global challenges. I expect the implementation plans will clearly advance these goals. As well, our implementation must produce real results that we can share with the Governor and the legislature and all Minnesotans to demonstrate the value of this investment.

The University is the economic engine of Minnesota. This renewed partnership with the state is an important opportunity to strengthen our research enterprise, grow the state’s economy, and ensure that policymakers and Minnesotans understand the value of our work.

Thank you for your leadership.

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c:  Lendley Black, chancellor, University of Minnesota Duluth
    Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor, University of Minnesota Morris
    Stephen Lehmkuhle, chancellor, University of Minnesota Rochester
    Fred Wood, chancellor, University of Minnesota Crookston
    Karen Hanson, senior vice president and provost
    Richard Pfeutzenreuter III, vice president and CFO
    Trevor Ames, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
    Steve Crouch, dean, College of Science and Engineering
    Bob Elde, dean, College of Biological Sciences
    John Finnegan, dean, School of Public Health
    Aaron Friedman, vice president and dean, Medical School
    Al Levine, dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences
    Amy Phenix, chief of staff