

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
June 16, 2020

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Members Present: Jay Cowles, Chair, Roger Moe, Vice Chair, and Trustees Ahmitara Alwal, Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Robert Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, April Nishimura, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra, Members Absent: Samson Williams

**Convene, Jay Cowles, Chair**

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 8:30am. He commented that everyone is participating virtually.

Chair Cowles outlined how the board will conduct its meetings.

For the foreseeable future, Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-01, the State of Minnesota peacetime emergency declaration, remains in effect. As a result, the meetings of the Board of Trustees will be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021— Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means. Consistent with the federal and state guidance on the pandemic, in-person meetings will not be held. In addition, meeting the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have at least one board member to be physically present at the regular meeting location is not practical during the pandemic, nor is it advisable under the current conditions for the public to physically attend the regular meeting location.

As a result, members of the public are not permitted to attend any upcoming meetings due to the current pandemic. The board will continue to provide access for the public to monitor meetings via a live audio-stream of the proceedings. As we have done all along, meeting notices, meeting materials, minutes, and the link to the live audio-stream can be accessed from the board's website.

Chair Cowles conducted a roll call for attendance. All present except for Samson Williams.

**Chancellor Devinder Malhotra's Introductory Comments**

Today marks the fourth update to the Minnesota state's response to COVID-19 the amount of information and guidelines that have come our way from the first decision made on February 28th to now be truly overwhelming. Each day there is new information being shared as the state continues to turn the dial what the future holds. I'm not sure information is still evolving speculation is rife I'm certain off and that is Minnesota State our faculty staff and campus and system office leaders are determined to continue to adapt in order to best serve our students just we have done since the beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>. I communicated to the presidents that the colleges and universities of Minnesota State will be open informed and ready to welcome students both online and back to campus again with all the social distancing

and safety protocols in place focusing on this single option will clarify for our current and prospective students. What they can expect for fall classes and provide direction to faculty and staff as to how to prepare will be offering a mix of on campus and online courses reflecting how each institution can best support their students and their success the safety of our students and employees remains paramount as we have done from the beginning we will continue to implement the health and safety protocols required by the CDC, MDH Minnesota Department of Health and our state leaders.

I would also like to mention as we all know that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted students from economically fragile and historically oppressed communities and the events of last three weeks have also confronted us with systemic racism and jolted our consciousness. So now more than ever it is very important that even as we respond to COVID-19 even as we go into a fall planning, we need to recommit and continue to look at our response through an equity lens.

### **Report from Ron Anderson, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs**

Today we're going to focus the majority of our time speaking around about planning and preparations for fall semester, but I would like to begin just by giving you a quick update on where we stand for summer session. And as you know summer session is well underway and we have a blend of both online and in person classes occurring across our system you will see that nearly 80% remain fully on line with 16% classes this summer offered face to face again those are in the areas we've been talking about over the past month where there are instructional components that can only be designed to deliver could only be delivered in face to face environment and then 60% of the courses are being offered in a blended hybrid mix. We are able now to bring all students in all subject areas back you might recall that earlier in the spring when we were able to resume instruction it was for limited discipline areas that were high demand and for graduating students only we are now completing spring semester courses for everyone an offering summer session courses for everyone our overall summer undergraduate enrollment is up by 3.6% up slightly higher at the college is at 0.8% and at the universities 1.7 are graduate enrollment is up significantly at 0.2% so good news on the enrollment front. For our summer session all around As the chancellor just mentioned and we talked with you back in April we've been planning we began our planning discussions in early April around three scenarios which we shared with you in the shared with you back in April and in May and over the course of the month of late April and early May we really honed in on one primary scenario which was deemed most likely based on the phase reopening of movement across the state and the most up-to-date guidance from the governor's office MDH and will be referred to that scenario as scenario B and just as a reminder that scenario addresses a situation where restrictions on movement and size gathering still exists but there's no longer stay at home order in place and we're able to resume face to face instruction and services as chancellor noted earlier the first he reaffirmed the plan that planning scenario as the core of our approach and campuses began communicating at that point with their students that we would be welcoming students back to campus fall semester offering both a mix of online and in person classes and services and with our resident halls scenario and also recognize that each one of our institutions has unique programmatic structures and different

needs and so that the mix of the kinds of instruction that they have will vary from one campus to the next dependent on the nature of their programs are campuses have also continued to prepare contingency plans in the event that restrictions are resumed and that we change the posture the dial is turned back again or perhaps turn up even further as the chancellor mentioned our guidance in the situation continues to evolve so as we get new guidance we're responding accordingly before talking more about what the parameters of our fall planning look like we wanted to spend some time sharing with you the perspective or having a few of our presidents share with you the perspective of a few campuses to give you an idea of what it is they are considering as they approach the fall and how that process is working for each of their campuses. So with us today we have two Presidents who serve as liaisons to the essay committee President Wacker from Saint Cloud State University and President Berndt from Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College.

### **President Wacker Comments**

Good morning everyone it's really great to actually see you even though we're not in person and I appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit with you about all the good work going on here today. To prepare for fall you know we are we are looking at delivering all of our forces from 2000 of courses at this University in a mixed delivery mode of following the scenario be that that you've heard about so we'll have a combination of our courses that will be delivered online in a blended format which might take on the structure of a flipped classroom that you made know about where the students meet maybe once during the week and then the rest of the time in a remote format and then fully in person. And there's really two things that we're using to guide the decisions around which courses should be in which format and data is of course our public health and safety and CDC Minnesota Department Health guidelines as well as the pedagogical constraints or implications of what we're delivering and how we need to deliver these programs so as you know we have labs for example. Like many of our colleges and universities do not only do we do instruction in those spaces, but we also have faculty engaging in research. So, we're absolutely looking at every single scenario to make sure we're delivering at these things safely and preparing for our students. But I I want to also kind of talk a little bit about thinking about how we're going to re-engage our faculty and staff and students back on campus and where we are we began our planning it with the guidance of our system office colleagues an we've launched this work probably the middle of May, and we're calling it bring huskies home and we are working on a plan to really give some guidance about how to bring people back. One of the things that I think where we're trying to be very mindful of is the fact that we have to be really understanding that this transition of folks coming back and I'm thinking faculty and staff in particular will we need to be patient and to understand that just like it took a while for people to flip from in person to revoke it now we're asking people to now do the exactly the opposite and go from remote that they've been doing since gosh the middle of March back to you know an on campus environment and it's just going to take people time to adjust up to that and also think about the wardrobe they wear to work every day. Little things like that but I think that it is something that we're paying most attention to also too we know that our behaviors are going to have to change as we come back because we are we know it cannot be just like it was before our students left in March that in fact we're going to

have to re orient ourselves to accommodate social distancing the schedules of sanitizing our workspaces and even our work schedules. We're looking at different ways to staff and to stage our folks as they come back onto campus and we're working on a public campaign really that is about communicating to folks when they come back that our goal is to take care of each other and to make sure we are looking out for each other and being safe. This also includes our thinking around our residence halls because we of course will be welcoming students back into that environment and that is an environment that we are taking extra options to make sure that we're safe and our students will be placed in single rooms as opposed to double options to make sure that we have again ensuring the safe environment and just reorganizing how we engage with students in the residence in the dining pool working really hard to do a couple of things. One keep people safe but also re engage in and find ways to continue the traditions that people very much appreciate here at the campus but doing it in a way that again that's going to be different but also allows for people to reconnect. We've heard so much from our students at our faculty and our staff that they miss being on campus and being connected with our students and with each other so while we want to continue to foster those connections. I think we all acknowledge that it's just going to be a little bit different and how we do this so to conclude I'm super optimistic about what's happening here. I can't tell you how oh just how proud I am and how honored I am to be here and see the kind of effort that folks are making to continue to serve our students and each other so I appreciate the opportunity to share, thank you.

### **President Berndt Comments**

Our faculty staff campus leaders have been working hard to prepare for fall at both colleges. We are planning to deliver most courses online and teaching courses that require face to face elements in a manner consistent with the MDH and CDC guidelines. In pursuing this strategy one of the things I've been most impressed by is just how much creativity and adaptability are faculty have shown I see creativity in the mix of on campus and online instruction. For example some classes are supporting hyflex models where students can attend in person or online at the same time. The model helps us divide classes into smaller subgroups so students rotate in the onsite and on campus participation. I see flexibility in the mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction I didn't drill some faculty are offering synchronous instruction giving students the option to attend together but for those who can't make it because they're trying to manage life and work they can attend asynchronously and listen to a recording that can make it to class as be flexibility in the timing of our lab and clinical instruction. DCTC programs like electrical construction or front loading labs in case we need to reinstitute stay at home orders as he creativity and our faculty are using technology a lot of experimentation with online collaboration platforms like hoot in class tracking cameras digital whiteboards virtual machining tools like Microsoft Azure that will enable instructors to mirror the computing power of our on campus lamps but being able to do so from home and that's I think there are still some programs for us that where the accreditation standards prevent us from doing more online work and we really have to then ensure that we can provide that lab intensive coursework on campus. We also have some coursework areas where historically our students have struggled in an online platform. So we're thinking creatively about how we can support them at Inver Hills for example we're embedding tutors in our online developmental courses to provide more intensive levels of support and then to guide us in preparing for fall we've posted all employee discussions with a panel of

DCTC and Inver Hills students they can share their experiences with us and we can reflect on what we're learning about the student experience alright academically academic affairs division at Inver Hills embedded COVID-19 related questions in the student evaluations and so through those we've received almost 3000 comments from the evaluations that will inform fall course design and our faculty development workshops over the summer. I'm here your support services and no fall is going to look still build community while keeping people safe I looking forward to him related in my comments relating to this semester this instructor went out of her way to ensure that her students were not only able to complete the requirements of the course since spring break she's gone out of her way to provide additional resources to students to ensure success I truly feel that she cares about the students. Thanks you for letting me share.

### **Questions from Trustees**

Trustee Hoffman commented that students were coming to campus for just a one hour class once a week and are not getting the college experience that they had hoped for.

President Wacker explained that they are trying to create schedules so that doesn't happen to the students.

Trustee Sundin asked if boards of trustees are going to be able to understand or have an understanding of allowing students to have voice in the other pandemic (demonstrations) that is going on and keep safety and order.

President Wacker explained that they have the social responsibility to take this head on. They are in contact with students and have conversations, donation drives for the community around the George Floyd demonstrations.

### **Report from Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson**

We'd like to give you a bit of an update now on what has happened since our last meeting in May and as the chancellor mentioned guidance is continually evolving and seems like not a day goes by where there isn't something new and we know that's going to continue for the first future back in May Governor ordered another executive order that gave some parameters for higher education's operating. This was I believe the 1st order where higher Ed was explicitly listed in the executive order so it was quite helpful for us to have that articulated within the document so we didn't need to seek other interpretations as we did in prior orders as to how would apply to higher Ed as you know the postures of one of continuing to work from home whenever possible. In person classes and activities were allowable or institution for groups of size 10 that actually we've gotten that interpretation of an earlier order earlier in May so that was already in place for us but this it in the executive order and then part of that order also stipulated that we needed to have COVID-19 preparedness plans at each of our institutions. Before we could have faculty and staff return for in person classes or activities please shortly thereafter there was another executive order issued executive order 2074 which really represented a turning of the dial in the next phase of reopening things that became effective last Wednesday on June 10th The work from home posture remains but in this order now the size limitations were raised so that classes and activities could now be held for groups of up to 25 individuals as you can imagine that is a significant change for our campuses as they planned not only summer but particularly fall so that is giving us much more flexibility and much more runway if you will for having in person

classes. While still of course retaining the appropriate social distancing and health and safety protocols that order also spoke to activities or gatherings both indoor and outdoor limiting occupancy for internal gatherings to 50% and a maximum of 250 people an outdoor settings again not to exceed 250 individuals in size. The state the Minnesota stay safe plan is what emerged from that executive order and again this slide simply gives us an outline of the different phases that we have gone through and you will see that right now we are in slide excuse me phase three and looking at what will happen remove to phase four which from a timeline standpoint we do not yet know when that might occur but we are continuing our discussions in our planning based on the guidance from phase three next slide please so as our campuses have been preparing for fall semester and welcoming students back to campus as you just heard they're doing so under the operational parameters outlined in the executive order as well as current MDH and CDC guidelines. That means as you heard that we will have on line and person instruction currently the size caps as I mentioned earlier are restricted to groups of no more than 25 we will have physical distancing in place across our campuses not only in classrooms but in all other areas the MDH and CDC guidance is that we encourage students visitors staff and faculty to wear masks or face coverings residential halls this is probably one of the largest open questions that we were seeking guidance on that has now been issued by MDH allowing us to bring back students to residence halls and so long as there is a maximum of two students per shared room that we don't have any larger occupancies our campus is align an also protocols to ensure that sick students and staff and instructors stay home. As you heard both of the presidents speak I think it's important to recognize that as we prepare to bring our campus our students back to campus is folks are actively not only thinking about the logistics of meeting the different parameters for space movement and as well as determining the most efficient and effective course delivery method but also thinking about the people and what that means to us how do we prepare our campuses to bring our students back. So some key considerations that campuses as well as us and we in the system office have been thinking about in helping support that work is understanding the impact of COVID-19 and on our students and frankly on our faculty and staff as well as president Wacker mentioned we know that coming back is going to be an adjustment just as it was an adjustment moving to a remote posture so how do we think about those impacts how do we recognize that our students had a differential experience crossed areas of the state and across their own resource and access options and really understand how to reenter this in person mode posture. With that in mind an understanding that folks will be coming back from different places both literally and figuratively and that we need to be mindful of that as we move into the fall semester and certainly over the last month has become increasingly apparent that we have to be very mindful about the impact of George Floyd's death on our students in our communities and what that means for us in our work not only in terms of responding to what's happening in the moment but also in terms of examining our processes in our curriculum. And our work from an anti-racist perspective an equity perspective I just want to what I believe it was president Wacker that said this is ongoing work we have been engaged in this we are being called now to be even more focused but we will continue to build on work that is in process to add additional aspects to our work that make sure that we are addressing these impacts both on our students as well as our broader community. You heard about how campuses are examining the different courses to think through the best delivery mode so that the course objectives are most fully met within this posture as well as developing contingency plans in the event that things tighten up again and that we have to move to a more restricted operating posture. You heard president Berndt talk about the work an investment that they're making in faculty to strengthen online courses and really help our faculty move from emergency remote instruction which is what we

consider much of what happened in the spring to intentionally on line instruction. That means moving courses into an online environment and curriculum and pedagogy developed in a way that it is suited best to that environment and really focusing on the quality of the experience in a very intentional online way that it goes beyond the remote instruction that we did on a short term basis campus is certainly are continuing to strengthen the remote delivery of support services as well as think about how they blend that remote delivery with in person delivery when students are back on campuses and then strengthening our support for student basic needs. As we've talked about these last few months and understanding our response to COVID-19 it's become increasingly apparent and the large gaps that we have across our student bodies in in regard to access to basic student needs housing mental health physical health, food etc. So how do we strengthen those reports as students are coming back to our campus and understand how those things need to be leveraged with our communities and focused on and understood as part of what our students experience and part of what impacts their academic experience on campus as well. We spoke with you last month about work around marketing an enrollment management in different initiatives that are underway this past week we launched the elevate Minnesota scholars program which is really a marketing campaign that was focused on attracting new students to Minnesota State that is students who may have been going out of state maybe transferring from another school or may have been thinking about going out of state but now we're looking at options closer to home. In the light of the pandemic so in addition to the system wide messaging around this templates and messaging was given to campuses so that presidents and their staff were able to use that messaging in local markets to reinforce the broader we have digital ads in place on both on the Minnesota State at Minnesota State website as well as Facebook and Instagram. The features of the program are really highlighting what we do best streamlined application process talking about the transferability of credits of the low tuition best value education in public education in Minnesota and so this campaign is really as I mentioned focused on bringing in new students to our system students who may not have been considering us as well as also highlighting the overall and overall awareness of the system across the state and next week will also be Minnesota State virtual week. As you know last summer I believe with our first summer of having it claiming a week in the summer that was Minnesota State week in which we focus on marketing all of our institutions across the state application fees are waived for that week each of our campuses is offering an online virtual visit that students can sign up for and get exposure to the campus and learn about the campus we have on our main website and interactive map of the states that highlights each of our institutions with direct links to information about each institution quick highlights as well as ways to get more information and to visit the websites of those campuses. On Thursday we will be hosting through ASA an enrollment management summit which is an event that's been in the works for a number of months that will be involving teams from I believe more than 2/3 of our campus will be that will be led by some enrollment management experts from outside of the state and really following short both our short-term strategies as it relates to with prospects of COVID-19 and new posture we'll posture we will be in for the fall and spring. Longer term strategies and institutions are working on to bolster their enrollment and really to pull together all the pieces of recruitment and retention and the different aspects that go into not only bringing students into our system but helping we to persist and go through to completion stage this stage. I'd like to turn it over got off my back light just wanted to give you an update of where we are for fall semester as well and please know that our campuses continued to work on refining that mix of on line and face to face courses so the current mix that you see as they continue to refine their fall plans an understand the kinds of physical requirements facility requirements they need to they will have for

offering courses within the current restrictions. Currently right now that we've got 36% of our classes there are plans to be offered on line 14% blended but still 50% face to face I expect that we will see some movement of those numbers over the next month is that work continues emphasis balance the online versus to get the fan looking at the needs of the course and what's going to proceed with course and also looking at the physical requirements. We're looking at all subject areas and all students every as we've been as we've been tracking are enrolling earlier that we were we were advocator significant behind last year and last year about a month ago we get each week that gap continues to close we are currently running for cheap by 3% below last year. At this time we're hopeful that the activities that we're undertaking at the state level as well as local efforts then you'd look into that gap down gap down largest gap at our gap at our colleges at just 18.5% and the universities at 8.5 add women graduate enrollment bullet enrollment continues to be a bright spot falling below loud here as well but only by 1.6 so we're seeing positive trends and I think as we have more in our create in our communication. List trend was the instrument was mentioned when he is managing his company is very large fire my mindful of what kind of mix of courses are going to be offered and so at this point I'd like to ask associate vice chancellor Yolitz to share with you the work that we're undertaking to plan to prepare for returning to work both in terms of campuses and system office and how the different guidance's are going to impact that as we look at bringing people back not only on our campuses but also within the system office.

#### **Report from Brian Yolitz, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities**

As you just heard from presidents Wacker and Berndt there is an incredible number of factors facing our college university presidents and our leadership team as they consider and take into account the multiple facets pairing for the fall term and returning students ways to campus as we as we collectively learn and understand more about the coronavirus and are transmitted. Public health officials refine their guidance and recommendations for mitigating it spread fade and federal policy makers adjust their declarations in directions as examples in the four weeks since our last board meeting Governor Walz has issued 6 executive orders associated with COVID-19 vice chancellor Anderson covered a couple of those that directly impacted higher Ed but elements of each of those influences campus life and campus operations in addition Minnesota Department of Health and office of higher education jointly published an 8 page document outlining recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 at higher Ed institutions as well as four of the nine workgroup reports offering strategy recommendations for specific areas of campus life for college and university planning across Minnesota's higher education sector. But you heard some of the conversation around how those plans and that information is influencing work on campus and some of that work helped us move towards his vice chancellor Anderson outlined this option B and focusing on that in addition various state agencies have issued their assessment interpretation of these orders and strategies and there have been multiple updates to federal and international public health official's new and emerging guidance for as well as a new and emerging guidance from professional organizations all are being integrated into the individual college university as well as system office pandemic preparedness plan or return to work plans we outlined last month there's a bit of a reminder executive orders call for businesses to include institutions of higher education to establish and implement COVID-19 preparedness plans that provide for the implementation of Minnesota OSHA standards the Minnesota a Department of Health and CDC guidelines in classrooms labs in areas where students and staff may visit. These plans are to address a host of areas including learning strategies and avenues ranging from



distance learning to in person classes and activities to implementing administrative and engineering controls and protocols around students and changing quite frankly culture of how we operate work students and faculty and employees stay at home and their sick we have a support infrastructure around them to support that decision to keep our campuses safe. Screening individuals before they come to campus or the system office show social distancing strategies and cleaning and disinfection protocols these prepared his plans are signed by institutional leaders and shared widely across the campus community and supported by orientation and implementation training mirroring state guidance we have provided a basic framework for institutional preparedness plans reflecting the Department of employment and economic development or deed plan templates for businesses we took their plan and basically Minnesota State is for a higher Ed environment institutional leaders are using this template as a guide in the integration of executive orders MDH workgroup recommendations and guidance into the specific needs and culture of their campuses in keeping with deeds approach to business plans and planning our direction and expectation to campuses is that planning will be cross functional. An inclusive with bargaining units and student groups there is no specific expectation that the plans will be approved at the system office level but that they will as the same case for the deed plans for business operations we all what we do need to do is have a plan in place we all need to follow the plan presidents Wacker and Berndt along with vice chancellor Anderson touched on many of the key aspects of the academic and student support planning and work that they're focusing on campus operations. President Wacker talked about the creativity and flexibility involved and how we deliver economic programming residence life programs in student support and advising services and in fact monitored some of the plans I bring Huskies homes which I think is pretty pretty cool institutional and system office leaders are also facing array of other issues and general campus operations and students employees that safety and their managed and the management of them a couple of these include screening student employees and visitors as they come on the campus and some of the questions we're asking are what are the key screening measures and protocols there's multiple sources out there with the different things that they prioritize and think are most effective how should they be applied within the Minnesota State system and individually at in campuses across the state. How do we move students and employees to a single or limited access point on campus or an individual buildings? I heard president Wacker talk about having two of their eight buildings open how do we when we bring more and more students back how does that work then how do we what do we do with the screening outcomes when we have them in our hands and what role might technology play in in the screening protocols? Some of you amazed also heard on national media reporting around several major higher Ed institutions being calling for testing of all students and employees as they come back in the fall. So some of the questions around is testing of our students and employees something we should pursue how do we test everyone or just some those people that have symptoms and how often will test people and what action we take with the results once we had them we've been working with the department of higher education and the Department of Health. Right now they've got across agency work group to assess the needs for testing on campus and are assessing several several important factors and right now they don't recommend that we do any testing broad testing of our students and employees they've got some issues around the fact that the testing only provides a snapshot in time and somebody could be positive the day afterwards. Also some of them they want us to prioritize work on other mitigation strategies around social distancing and with proper cleaning and hand washing and those sorts of protocols and also the concern about should we be diverting test kits and capacity away from the higher priorities potentially of aging population in long term care facilities and for first

responders as well as the use of PPE elements for this type of work. Another aspect is how do we support at risk or high risk students and employees and those with underlying health conditions or those with custodial responsibilities for those at risk like parents grandparents or or children how do we identify and validate those needs. How do we offer equitable accommodations across work sections or units and campuses or institutions and how should they be applied? You know what happens in end another factor is what happens when we have a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus what's the institutions role and responsibility for tracing that employee or student's actions and activities on campus where does the tracing responsibility shift from public health officials to campus officials? If it does now wait a campus developer tracing capabilities or is it organically or is there a contract or is there a partnership with the public health entity in their in their community then what sort of training. If we were to take that in on this part of our role for our employees should they be called on to do the tracing activity and then what are the privacy protocols that may be needed in place to have an attractive tracing protocol? And then finally I think president Berndt didn't mention that he is also keep an eye on what happens if there's a surge outbreak either on campus or in the community and how do we pivot back to stay at home position academically within a residence life programs? And how do we have the flexion however fast ability to make that happen in a relatively rapid and safe manner. They're just these are just some of the questions that we're working with the institutions on as we wrestle through this return to work and prepare for the fall and his campus leaders. We've got several principles that we're keeping in mind as we work our way through this first trying to carefully balance the health and safety of our students and employees keeping them apprised of the changes update guidance and guidance and regulations in our plan. Seeking feedback and feedback and input and records to be effective effective our plans need student and employee and administration all working together to keep the campus is safe and effective it plans made these plans we need to recognize that living documents can they continue we are continually respond policy and policy landscape and taking input from our various community groups and constituent groups to make sure that we're reflecting the most current standards as well as it concerns and concerns of our students. We've tried to offer some consolation to some of the complexities and plans for the fall and how we're working on returning to campus and the system office as well as welcoming students back they fall for a great fall term.

### **Closing Comments from Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson**

So as Brian mentioned new information and additional guidance can be expected throughout the summer and into the fall and there is still much that we don't know the status of K12 and how that educational system is going to function and what impact that will have not only on our students but also on our partnerships with those institutions. In our local districts questions around athletics remain open as well as international travel and study abroad for future semesters. Just to name a few of the things as Brian mentioned that we are still awaiting the release of some additional work reports from those MDA changes groups that we're addressing more specific focus areas of higher Ed so those pieces as they come in we will continue to work with campuses to respond to that guidance and make sure that we're incorporating that into our work and our reopening in the fall semester. The terms ahead so as we look to next fiscal year and beyond we're focused on a number of different aspects to make sure that we first of all learn from what we've experienced in this COVID-19 period up to this stage over the last six months we've learned a lot about the kinds of changes we can make what works well. What can't doesn't work well how we can pivot and respond to changing conditions in ways that frankly many would have not thought higher Ed was capable of doing across the country. But making sure that we

take what we've learned there and apply it to how we do our work on a going forward basis and also that we understand our work as higher Ed institutions within the current social and historical moment. As you've heard about a couple of different occasions throughout this last conversation thinking through how we support our students particularly how we support our black students and our indigenous and students of color as well as faculty and staff in this time of significant social unrest in our community. How we think about our curriculum and the way that we do our work what perspectives we examine and how we think about changes that we need to make at the system to address both systemic racism and in equities across lots of aspects of our students life not just educational access but also the as we mentioned earlier basic needs. And how do we bring that together all in support of our students and their educational goals and probably most importantly I think are the conversations we've been having around how we emerge from this pandemic as a different organization. We spoke a bit about this last month having clearly our work toward the equity 2030 goal is more important than ever and I think the events of the last month have just underscored the importance of the work the significant work to be done not just a Minnesota State but within all of our communities. So are intentional focus on equity and anti-racism work is going to be really clear as is really important as we move forward. How we continue to review our core work and how we do it on an ongoing basis with a very critical eye but yet a supportive one and one that works together with our campuses across different institutions as well as within institutions. And then really building on the groundwork for re envisioning ourselves as a system in a set of institutions. We've been doing this work now for a number of years and it has been evolving overtime we've been kick started in some new directions I would suggest with the disruption of the pandemic but now really taking advantage of that kick start if you will making sure that we take what has worked well for us and what we've learned about what hasn't worked well and use that to inform how we move ahead. Lots of conversations within each division about what this means for our work with our colleagues on campuses within the academic and student affairs discussions. We've been I'm talking about how we pulled together are different councils in the representatives from campuses to engage in many of these questions and really focus on the big picture policy work that we have to do to address. The gaps and disparities that our students experience and really position us how to move into a future that will look quite different and has different possibilities than what we have traditionally operated under in higher education.

### **Questions from Trustees**

Trustee Rodriguez thanked the presidents for their thoughtful presentations. Explained that they are there to support them and there are ways to share information about the struggles and make sure we keep that communication open.

Trustee Soule asks if there will be any news on how we are going to alert the world that we are going to open our campuses in the same manner as everyone else. Local stories are out there about the specific campuses and how they are opening. Chancellor has had conversations with 2 reporters in the city. Statements can be created and sent to local media to get information about campuses out to the public.

Chancellor Malhotra added additional comments. We kicked off our three scenarios not earlier than other institutions and along with what the local media has provided you the details of our recent efforts in our contact with the media we had if you remember I had mentioned it in my last bold remarks even before the last board meeting I had met with all the regional medias and there to our messaging was very clear that we will be opening fall and we will be offering a mix of online and on campus classes and

as we speak I'm also slated to meet with the media from greater Minnesota. I think on Wednesday and there again we will give it to them the same message so we have been on this message for some time now.

### **Conclusion**

Chair Cowles thanked the presenters and everyone for their participation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.