



Chair Moe, Chancellor Malhotra, and Trustees,

[Kaileigh] I am saddened to say that today will be my last time addressing this group in my State Chair capacity. At the beginning of this month, I graduated from Winona State- Trustee Huebsch, it was great to see you - and, earlier this week, I stepped down as State Chair for Students United. Do not worry though, I'm not going very far as I am now in my new position with Students United. I am our Community Outreach and Fundraising Coordinator. So, don't worry, you will still be hearing from me in the future, and I look forward to continuing working with all of you. Chancellor Malhotra, thank you for your service to Minnesota State, and I hope you can enjoy your retirement. Thank you, Chair Moe, for your leadership this year. Trustees, thank you for your work towards improving our system in the future. Hope to see you all at events in the future as I will miss our monthly meetings. Axel Kylander will be serving as State Chair until June 30th. Our incoming officers will begin in July. Once again, thank you and I'll hand it over to Axel.

[Axel] We at Students United would like to congratulate President Olson for his appointment as Chancellor of the Minnesota State System. While you will be truly missed by our students at Winona, we as an organization are eager to collaborate with you in your role as Chancellor to continue ensuring our seven state universities are accessible and affordable for current and prospective students. We would also like to extend our gratitude once again to Chancellor Maholtra and his cabinet members for your dedication and commitment to serving our students. During our conversations, Chancellor Maholtra and his cabinet members addressed our key thoughts and concerns through a student-centered and equity-based lens. Thank you all for your consistent work, support, and receptiveness.

As most of us here can attest, campus and student engagement has been a challenge since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, however, we experienced our first sense of normalcy on each of our campuses, and our team worked diligently to rebuild student engagement with our organization. We are happy to report a significant increase in student participation in our advocacy. To recap, 70 students participated in our annual Advocacy Conference; over ten students participated in our Committees of the Board, and we flew ten students out to Washington D.C. for our Federal Advocacy. Additionally, our staff and officers had the opportunity to reconnect with several food pantries, DEI, career services, and other support centers across all seven universities. These centers are central to the lives of our students as they provide a space of solace, guidance, and creativity. We are entirely grateful for the incredible work of these centers, and we will continue to strengthen our relationship and collaboration with them going forward.

Students United was also met with new faces and ideas as 2023 was a year of internal transitions for our team. We had Ben Reimler join us as the Director of Government Relations; Dr. Meg Bartlett-Chase as our Director of Student Leadership and Equity; and Samantha Raghu as our Systems and University Relations Coordinator. We want to thank our colleagues at the System and our partner organizations for welcoming and supporting our new staff members.



Lastly, as mentioned last month, we have our annual Penny Golf Scramble fundraiser event on June 1st at Gopher Hills in Cannon Falls. We would like to invite members to join us for a fun day of golfing, raffling, and celebrating over 30 years of the Penny Program. To register for this event, you can visit our Students United webpage, and we will send this link in a follow-up email as well.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions!