

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
St. Paul, MN
Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Vice Chair Dawn Erlandson, Treasurer Jay Cowles, and Trustees AbdulRahmane Abdul-Aziz, Basil Ajuo, Ann Anaya, Alex Cirillo, Amanda Fredlund, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, Rudy Rodriguez, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra

Absent: None

Call to Order

Chair Michael Vekich called the meeting to order at 1:18pm. He welcomed everyone and acknowledged Trustees Ann Anaya and Rudy Rodriguez who participated by phone.

Chair's Report, Michael Vekich

Chair Vekich directed the trustees to look in their materials at the revised FY2019-FY2020 calendar; today is the first reading. One of the revisions is an added meeting on July 25-26, 2018. The meeting may only be one day on July 25, with a joint study session with Leadership Council. Orientations with new trustees will happen as soon as the appointments have been made. The board retreat is September 18-19, 2018 in Duluth. The chancellor and staff have been working on the agenda for the retreat, and a significant portion will relate to strategic planning and reimagining higher education.

President Scott Olson, Winona State University, has graciously offered to host our October 16-17, 2018 board meeting.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

I would like to begin by thanking each and every trustee for attending commencements on our campuses across Minnesota in the past few weeks. I spoke at the commencements at Itasca Community College, Rainy River Community College, and Hibbing Community College last week; and tomorrow I will address the graduates, their families, and their friends at Saint Paul College. I chose to attend these particular commencements because Saint Paul College is the closest campus to my office and Rainy River is the farthest. So far, in fact, that I could actually see Canada from the Rainy River campus.

One astonishing fact about our commencements is the sheer numbers involved: roughly 20,000 students are graduating this semester. A great many of them are the talent that will assist business and industry across the state in managing the shortage of workers that's obvious from the "Help Wanted" signs that seem to greet you no matter what city or town you drive through these days.

The 40,000 graduates we send back into Minnesota communities every year are a powerful symbol of our value proposition as a system of colleges and universities. Our graduates represent the critical role our 54 campuses play as the flagship higher education system of the state. Growing Minnesota's economy through talent development, opening the doors of educational opportunity to all Minnesotans, and serving as a catalyst – often the catalyst – for social and economic vibrancy in communities across the state.

In the months ahead, two studies will help us quantify our impact on Minnesota. The first is the economic impact study that is underway this spring and will conclude later this summer. This study will serve as a tool to quantify the total economic and social impact Minnesota State makes to the entire state.

The second study is a research initiative called Collegiate Leaders in Increasing MoBility – also known as the CLIMB study. The study is a partnership between higher education economists, policymakers, and a diverse set of US colleges and universities who seek to understand which campuses act as engines of intergenerational mobility; why those campuses are such engines; and how schools and policymakers can promote opportunity and economic growth by helping larger numbers of low-income students reach the middle class.

What is clear, though, is that the communities we serve don't need to be convinced about our value proposition. They already understand that our legislative requests are really about maintaining the bricks and mortar that allow us to provide human capital to our state; and that investment in our colleges and universities is incredibly critical in today's knowledge-based economy. The students on our campuses understand our value to them. Their families understand it. I witnessed this first hand at the commencement ceremonies I attended last week, and I have no doubt that all of you, as members of the board, do as well.

I also witnessed it during a three-day, 936-mile tour I undertook at the beginning of the month. I shared the story of my tour in an email to all faculty and staff last week, and I would like to share it with the board here today also. The tour included campus visits and conversations with local news media in ten cities: St. Cloud, Staples, Bemidji, Fargo-Moorhead, Worthington, Canby, Marshall, Mankato, Winona, and Red Wing. Joined by the presidents of the college or university in each community, I shared the story of our value proposition. Everywhere I went, the editorial board got it, and then they wrote about it, which resulted in editorial after editorial in support of our legislative requests.

I also visited our campuses, and two of my stops – at Central Lakes College in Staples and the Canby campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College – gave me the opportunity to complete my quest to visit all 54 Minnesota State campuses. Let me offer a few brief examples from my recent campus visits that reveal what we do and who we are as a system of colleges and universities.

At Central Lakes College, I toured the 360-acre operations field –affectionately known as “the sand box” – used by the Heavy Equipment Operations and Maintenance program, which is the largest laboratory at any of our colleges and universities. Central Lakes’ students gain hands-on experience running equipment fitted with the latest GPS technology, including one piece of equipment for laying underground utility pipes donated by community partners.

My visit to Canby gave me a great deal to reflect on. It’s where I met Jody Olson, an incredibly proud supporter of the campus, whose late husband, Dr. Robert Olson, was instrumental in the creation of what was then Canby Area Vocational Technical Institute in 1965. Jody continues that legacy through an annual scholarship, and her family’s generosity represents the generosity of families and community partners who over the years helped build our system of colleges and universities. Because of people like the Olsons, the Canby campus of Minnesota West is now home to unique programs such as Wind Energy Technology, which attracts students from across the state.

At every campus I set foot on, I am incredibly humbled and impressed by the deep commitment the faculty, staff, and community members show for students and for their college or university. It might be a simple “hello” that faculty and staff say to students in the hallway. It might be a president who doesn’t think it’s beneath him to stop to pick up trash. Or, it might be a community partner who make it possible for our students to have real-world experience long before they graduate.

In all of these interactions, I have sensed something powerful that’s unlike anything that exists at any other higher education provider. That’s what makes Minnesota State and the work we do very special.

I would now like to close by sharing with you a humorous encounter during my tours. As we were driving one day at lunch time, and we were looking for a place to eat, I saw this sign which looked like a restaurant. This huge sign read: “Vegetarian”, as soon as I saw that sign, we swerved the car, we went across two lanes, and stopped in the parking lot all excited. Then we got out and I looked at the sign again, it still said “Vegetarian,” but there was a subtext underneath that said: “Definition of a lousy hunter.” True story. Needless to say, we got back in the car and found another restaurant where we could get some vegetarian dishes. And that, Chair Vekich, concludes my report.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes, Board of Trustees Meeting, April 18, 2018**
- 2. Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, May 2, 2018**
- 3. Contract Exceeding \$1 Million**
 - a. E-builder License Extension**
 - b. Lake Superior College – Helicopter Lease Renewal**
 - c. Minnesota State University, Mankato**
 - i. Internet Service in Residence Halls**
 - ii. McElroy Residence Halls E and F HVAC Renovation**

Chair Vekich called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda carried

unanimously.

Board Policy Decisions (Second Reading)

- 1. Proposed Amendment to Policy 2.8 Student Life**
- 2. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.7 Statewide Student Association**
- 3. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.24 Institution Type and Mission, and System Mission**

Chair Vekich called for a motion to approve the Proposed Amendments to Policy 2.8 Student Life, Policy 3.7 Statewide Student Association, and Policy 3.24 Institution Type and Mission, and System Mission. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board Standing Committee Reports

1. Human Resources Committee, Dawn Erlandson, Chair

Appointment of President of St. Cloud State University

The following motion was approved unanimously:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Dr. Robbyn Wacker as president of St. Cloud State University effective July 1, 2018, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Human Resources Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Dr. Wacker thanked the board and the chancellor.

Student Associations

LeadMN:

Isaac Jahraus, president, and Cecilia Damian, vice president, addressed the board.

Students United:

Lexi Byler, vice chair, and Ben Uecker, treasurer, addressed the board.

Board Standing Committee Reports (continued)

2. Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
 - a. 2018 Legislative Summary
 - b. FY2019 Annual Operating Budget (First Reading)
 - c. Students United Fee Increase (First Reading)
 - d. Policy 5.11 Tuition and Fees (First Reading)

Committee Chair Cowles reported that Vice Chancellor Laura King has proposed a moratorium on new student orientation fees at the colleges. Vice Chancellor King will also convene an ad hoc group to review all fees and provide a report in the fall. Chair Cowles wants to review all student fees and be clear about decision-making authority across all levels.

Chair Vekich requested a memo from staff explaining the charge of the ad hoc group prior to the June board meeting. Trustee Alex Cirillo suggested the presidents receive the memo

so they have an opportunity to provide their input and perspective on the project.

3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Ann Anaya, Chair

- Equity by Design

Committee Chair Anaya reported that the committee had a discussion regarding taking a holistic approach focused on equity as compared to equality or equal access. The information was a good sharing of knowledge and progress that has been made in this approach.

4. Joint Academic and Student Affairs and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees
Alex Cirillo and Ann Anaya, Co-chairs

- Student Success and the Opportunity Gap

Committee Chair Cirillo reported on the joint meeting with Chief Diversity Officer Clyde Wilson Pickett and Senior Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson. We learned four things from their presentation:

1. Act with intentionality;
2. Build our capacity;
3. We are now working in an organic environment; and
4. Our students bring tremendous assets.

5. Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair

Committee Chair Cirillo reported the board approved the three (3) policies set forth before the board.

6. Joint Audit and Human Resources Committee

Michael Vekich and Dawn Erlandson, Co-chairs

- Human Resources Transactional Service Model (HR-TSM) Consultation Results and Project Update

Committee Chair Erlandson reported the Office of Internal Audit and Baker Tilly gave an excellent report and recommendations to keep the project on track.

7. Audit Committee, George Soule, Vice Chair, reported

- Information Security Consultation, Phase 1 Results

Committee Vice Chair Soule reported that all is well and we are moving on to Phase 2.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Roger Moe is going to his seventh commencement ceremony of the year at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on May 17, 2018.

Trustee Alex Cirillo reported that two Winona State University students were going to miss their commencement ceremonies because of a baseball tournament so he and President Scott Olson went to the field and performed an ad hoc commencement ceremony for them and their families.

Trustee Amanda Fredlund reported that she participated in Pine Technical & Community College's commencement ceremony and the power went out. They were able to improvise and have the commencement ceremony outside.

Trustee Basil Ajuo reported how much he learned from attending the Open Educational Resources Project Showcase on April 23, 2018. He also mentioned attending the LeadMN spring general assembly.

Trustee AbdulRahmane Abdul-Aziz reported on his study abroad trip in Europe.

Other Business

The Executive Committee will meet on June 6 and the board meeting is June 19-20. We will be electing the chair and vice chair during this annual board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.