

## **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

January 29, 2020

Present: Chair Jay Cowles, Vice Chair Roger Moe, and Trustees Ahmitara Alwal, Ashland Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Bob Hoffman, April Nishimura, Rudy Rodriguez, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich, and Samson Williams, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

Absent: Trustee Jerry Janezich

---

#### **Convene and Call to Order**

Chair Jay Cowles called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm. He acknowledged Trustee Dawn Erlandson who was participating in the meeting by telephone.

#### **Chair's Report, Jay Cowles**

Chair Cowles welcomed Trustee Ahmitara Alwal, a student at Winona State University, who was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Governor Walz on December 16, 2019.

Chair Cowles thanked Trustee AbdulRahmane Abdul-Aziz who served on the board since October 24, 2017.

Chair Cowles introduced Dan Drain who is the new assistant the board office. He also acknowledged the members of the Minnesota State College Faculty's emerging leaders program who are in the audience.

Chair Cowles commented that the board has had valuable discussions and deliberations during the committee meetings over the past two days. The meetings have been thoughtful and informative. He thanked the committee chairs, cabinet members, and the president liaisons for setting the agendas and for providing the relevant context during the presentations.

#### **Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra**

Thank you Chair Cowles, Vice Chair Moe, members of the board. It's a new year. So I thought I would try something different and I'm not referring to my jacket, but to the fact that I'll keep my remarks brief.

#### **FY2020 Legislative Session**

In just two short weeks the 2020 legislative session will begin. Earlier this month Governor Walz released his capital program proposal for higher education at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and it was indeed great news. And even though I was 7,000 miles away in India, it still sounded very great even so far apart from there. Governor Walz has approved almost 97% of our requests and so indeed our deep gratitude and our appreciation to Governor Walz's foresight in making sure that the state is ready to make

strategic investments in our physical infrastructure to create the learning landscape for our students, which they need and deserve. My thanks to President Hanson and Anoka-Ramsey Community College faculty and staff who hosted the governor's press conference at a very short notice and I thought did a superb job. To President Ester of Normandale Community College my gratitude and appreciation for her too, for being there and for speaking and sharing the impact of these projects for our students, our faculty, and for our staff. Chair Cowles and Trustee Tefer, thank you for your support and your attendance of that event. I know for Trustee Tefer it must have been a joyous homecoming because the event at the college had a very special meaning because it was held in the classroom and labs where the governor and lieutenant governor toured with Trustee Tefer had taught for well over 25 years. So thank you for being there.

We are indeed grateful to the governor and lieutenant governor for their support of Minnesota State's capital and asset preservation needs. Going into the legislative session with the strong support of \$142.5 million for asset preservation and all 15 campus projects on the board's approval list is indeed a great first step. This demonstrates the strengths and needs across our campuses to better serve the needs of our students and our communities. Also a reminder that was mentioned in the remarks of Trustee Erlandson during the Engagement and Outreach Committee work.

### **Minnesota State Day at the Capital**

On February 24th we will have the opportunity to display that strength at the second Minnesota State day at the Capitol. As we did last year, there will be program demonstrations from six institutions highlighting the experiences our students have and the teaching and learning and indeed the magic that occurs in the classroom and the hard work of our faculty and staff. Unlike last year we hope that the weather cooperates, the temperatures are temperate and remain above zero. We are not asking too much but above zero would be good.

### **Executive Searches, Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College and North Hennepin Community College**

Now for some updates. First, the executive searches. There are two presidential searches going on currently. One is at Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College and then North Hennepin Community College. Again my appreciation to President Hanson of Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Anoka Technical College and President Sharon Pierce of Minneapolis College for their leadership of the search advisory committees and my appreciation also to the students, faculty, staff, and community members who are serving on the search committees for these presidential searches.

I have had conversations with the folks from our search consultants at the Association of Community College Trustees for these searches and have been pleased with their efforts and support to identify the leaders of these two colleges. I'm convinced that the applicant pools in both of these searches are very robust and sufficiently diverse. About a third of the

candidates come from communities of color or of native origin and about half of them I think are women, so we are looking forward to these searches. I look forward to bringing forth my recommendation from these two presidential searches at the March meeting of the board.

### **Equity 2030 Update**

Now finally a little update on Equity 2030. As I have previously shared with the board this past fall I had extensive conversations with students, faculty, and staff around the goal of Equity 2030 and the work ahead. I must again emphasize that a focus on closing the educational equity gaps is not new. Our colleges and universities are already engaged in this important work. However, as we all know that we are still very frustrated by the fact that no matter how hard we have worked on closing the educational equity gap it has proven to be intractable over the last two and a half decades. So Equity 2030 provides an unequivocal statement of where our sense of priorities and our focus will be as a system. I will be the first to admit that given the enormity and complexity of the project that not everything has been figured out and that there is tremendous amount of ambiguity about the next steps and it could perhaps be characterized as fuzzy. This is a complex and a multi-faceted issue that will require intentional research, design, testing and continued assessment. When we think about the complex change that will be required it can be daunting. I am appreciative of the discussions I've had with presidents, campus administrators, and leadership from our bargaining units and leadership of our statewide student associations. It is only together with everyone's commitment and ideas and everybody having a seat at the table that we can make Equity 2030 a reality.

### **Chancellor's Fellows**

One step along the way was that we were successful in hiring four Chancellor's Fellows who were introduced yesterday during the lunch. They have been on the job for three weeks today. They started in January and in the very next week we sent them to a leadership institute in Washington DC and now they are in the midst of finalizing their project plans. I must say that all indications are that they have hit the ground running each and every one of these four Chancellors Fellows with their deep passion for their work and their commitment to the underlying goals of Equity 2030 and a very strong work ethic. These fellows will lead the development of the foundational frameworks, which will provide the underpinnings of the operational structures to accomplish Equity 2030. They're working on fine-tuning their action plans for their six-month engagement and they'll be working primarily in three areas – one area is data disaggregation and predictive and data analytics, and another area is target setting and developing a monitoring framework and information around quality improvement. Finally, the third area they would be focusing on would be academic equity strategy work and then they will be looking at what are the ways in which we can be more creative, innovative, and nimble in developing not only culturally responsive pedagogy in the classroom, but also support structures for our students outside the classroom so that we increase the likelihood of their success and enhance access to individuals from historically marginalized groups.

This early idea of the Chancellor's Fellows align our bringing to light the work that I shared with the board at our November meeting. What I'm most excited about is the capacity of these fellows to be able to connect with students, faculty, and staff on our campuses through a series of learning sessions to learn not only what is currently being done but where the gaps are. This complemented with my external outreach focused on bringing together agencies and organizations to focus on addressing the additional barriers that our students face and there are many.

Chair Cowles and Vice Chair Moe that concludes my remarks. However Chair Cowles with your indulgence I would like to yield the rest of my time and invite the four fellows up to the table to address the board.

Chancellor Malhotra invited the Chancellor's Fellows to come to the presenters table for introductions and comments.

- Dr. Jeffrey Ueland, professor, The Center for Sustainability Studies at Bemidji State University. His background is in geographic information systems remote sensing and spacial analytics. He is the Chancellor Fellow for predictive analytics.
- Dr. Ajaykumar Panicker, professor of sociology and graduate program director of social responsibility at St. Cloud State University. He is one of the two fellows for academic equity strategy.
- Dr. Ruthanne Kim, unlimited faculty member in the Department of Philosophy at Minneapolis College. She is serving as an academic equity strategy fellow.
- Dr. Doris Hill, affiliated with North Hennepin Community College. She is a Chancellor Fellow for target setting.

Chair Cowles thanked the Chancellor's Fellows for their comments and added that he looks forward to hearing progress reports on their work.

### **Consent Agenda**

- 1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, November 20, 2019**
- 2. 2019-2021 Minnesota State College Faculty Bargaining Contract**
- 3. State of Minnesota Perkins V Plan**
- 4. Restructuring of the Northeast Higher Education District**
- 5. Property Acquisition: Alexandria Technical and Community College**
- 6. Surplus Property Designation: Alexandria Technical and Community College**
- 7. NextGen Vendor Contract Negotiation Approval**
- 8. Third Party Owners Representative Contract Approval**
- 9. Contracts Exceeding \$1 Million**
  - a. McMahon Student Center Renovation, Itasca Community College**
  - b. Student Affairs Renovation, Phase 2, Minneapolis Community and Technical College**

*Following a motion by Trustee Moe and a second by Trustee Rodriguez, the Consent Agenda was adopted.*

### **Board Policy Decisions**

Chair Cowles announced that all three board policy decisions were reviewed as second readings during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting. The committee recommended approval of them.

- 1. Proposed Amendment to Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration**
- 2. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.27 Copyrights**
- 3. Proposed New Policy 3.43 Accreditation**

*Trustee Vekich moved approval of all three policies. Trustee Cirillo seconded and the motion carried.*

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Committee of the Whole, Jay Cowles, Chair**

1. NextGen Project Risk Review #5 Results  
Chair Cowles reported that the committee heard from Executive Director Eric Wion and Mike Cullen, Baker Tilly on the NextGen Project Risk Review results. There are strong oversight and accountability processes in place.
2. NextGen Update  
Vice Chancellor Ramon Padilla gave the update since the launch of the NextGen ERP replacement project in March of 2016. Chair Cowles thanked all of the team participants who worked on the RFP development process over the past four years.

#### **Audit Committee, George Soule, Chair**

- Project Update: Institution Financial Control Review  
Committee Chair Soule reported that Executive Director Wion provided an update on the institution financial controls. Saint Paul College participated in a pilot project to assess their financial controls. Saint Paul College's Vice President Scott Wilson provided an update on the project from the campus perspective.

#### **Facilities Committee, Louise Sundin, Vice Chair**

- 2022 Capital Program Guidelines (First Reading)  
Committee Vice Chair Sundin reported that Associate Vice Chancellor Brian Yolitz provided several updates including that the House Capital Investment Committee has finished its visits to campuses around the state. The Senate Committee is visiting metro area projects.

The committee also heard an overview of the 2022 Capital Program Guidelines as a first reading. The major themes are to protect and modernize student support spaces,

facilitate progress towards Equity 2030, energy efficiency, and renewable energy infrastructure, new square footage in rare cases only, value partnerships, and seek funding for college and university priorities. Trustee Sundin suggested adding student homelessness. The guidelines will be presented for a second reading at the March meeting.

**Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair**

1. College and University Financial Performance Update  
Committee Chair Moe reported that Interim Vice Chancellor Maki provided an update on the college and university financial performance. The update covered FY2019 and FY2018 financial statements and the financial health indicators for 2019. Colleges and universities continue to face financial and enrollment challenges and they are working hard to solve them.
2. 2022 Capital Program Guidelines (First Reading)  
Trustee Moe thanked Trustee Sundin for her report on the 2022 Capital Program Guidelines.

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair**

1. Proposed Amendment to Policy 2.6 Intercollegiate Athletics (First Reading)  
Committee Chair Cirillo reported that the proposed amendment to Policy 2.6 updated the language. There were no changes to the content.
2. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.26 Intellectual Property (First Reading)  
Committee Chair Cirillo explained that the proposed amendment to Policy 3.26 reorganizes the types of work, adds student internship agreements and open educational resource agreements, deletes the intellectual property coordinator language, and adds language on the system legal counsel's review of contracts involving intellectual property. Both policies will be presented for a second reading in March.

Committee Chair Cirillo also mentioned the reorganization of the Northeast Higher Education District that was approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved on the Board's Consent Agenda. He complimented Interim President Michael Raich and former NHED President Bill Maki for their work on the restructuring.

**Human Resources Committee, Michael Vekich, Chair**

- Report of the Committee  
Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee approved the Minnesota State College Faculty Bargaining Contract. The committee thanks Vice Chancellor Davis and his team as to the elements of the contract which the board adopted and also to the Minnesota State College Faculty.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees, Rudy Rodriguez, Chair**

- Title IX Civil Rights Compliance Update

Committee Chair Rodriguez reported the committee received an update on Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance. Dr. Clyde Pickett, Chief Diversity Officer, facilitated the presentation given by Andriel Dees, System Office Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance Officer, and Lori Mikl, Director of Affirmative Action/Equity & Legal Affairs and Title IX Coordinator at Winona State University. The discussed ongoing efforts to address sexual violence on the campuses and surrounding communities. We have consistent and proactive measures that focus on continuous improvement. The key takeaway is that we want everyone to feel safe on our college and university campuses.

### **Outreach and Engagement Committee, Louise Sundin, Vice Chair**

1. Partnership for Teachers of Color Pathway  
Committee Vice Chair Sundin summarized that the Partnership for the Teachers of Color Pathway is with Southwest Minnesota State University, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Worthington Public Schools (District 518), and The Southwest Initiative Foundation to create a teacher prepared pathway that will increase the diversity of teacher candidates in the region. Committee Vice Chair Sundin thanked everyone for the presentation.
2. Workforce Development Scholarships Update  
Committee Vice Chair Sundin commented that this presentation gave an overview of the legislative report on the Workforce Development Scholarship Program and the efforts to match scholarship funds with trade associations and other employer groups. The Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association presented a \$30,000 check in support of advanced manufacturing scholarships to Minnesota State. Committee Vice Chair Sundin thanked everyone for the presentation.

### **Student Associations**

1. President Oballa Oballa and Vice President Priscilla Mayowa, LeadMN, addressed the Board of Trustees.
2. State Chair Ola Abimola, Treasurer Prapti Niroula, and Vice Chair Sandra Shimba, addressed the Board of Trustees.

### **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Bargaining Units**

1. President Brent Jeffers, Inter Faculty Organization, was not present but he submitted prepared remarks that were read by Chair Cowles.
2. President Matt Williams and Treasurer Kent Quamme, Minnesota State College Faculty, addressed the Board of Trustees.

### **Trustee Reports**

Chair Cowles thanked the trustees who participated in the following fall commencement ceremonies: Winona State University; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Metropolitan State University; Minnesota State University Moorhead; Anoka Technical College; and St. Cloud State

University. Chair Cowles added that several trustees attended LeadMN's Scholarship Gala. Trustees also attended the introduction of President Stephanie Hammitt at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, and Governor Walz's press conference at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids. Last, Trustee Vekich is serving on the Association of Governing Boards Principles Project to develop a statement of governing principles for higher education leaders.

Trustee Sundin invited everyone to attend the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner on March 19, 2020, at the Bloomington DoubleTree hotel.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting a 4:38 pm.