

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Chair Dan McElroy; Trustees Christine Rice, Duane Benson, Cheryl Dickson, James Van Houten and Louise Sundin.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Member Absent: Jacob Englund.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Thomas Renier, David Paskach and Christopher Frederick.

Leadership Council Committee Co-Chairs Present: Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer and President Patrick Johns.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on November 17, 2009 at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Chair McElroy called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

1. Minutes of September 8, 2009

The minutes from the September 8, 2009 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting were approved as written.

2. Academic and Student Affairs Update – Senior Vice Chancellor Baer

- Senior Vice Chancellor Baer presented a brief report on the system's participation in the grant process offered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Between February and November 2009, grant applications and awards involving system institutions totaled \$63,975,495. Grants awarded system-wide totaled \$1,040,628 while the total of grant applications still in process is \$60,960,295. About \$2 million in grant applications were not awarded.

Grants received include Federal Emergency Management Agency grants to Minnesota State University, Mankato, and National Science Foundation Grants to Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota State University Moorhead and St. Cloud State University.

Still in process are college and university grant applications to the Department of Energy, Department of Labor and Department of Commerce.

- The students of Dr. Eugenia Paulus, a chemistry instructor at North Hennepin Community College, received an “Outstanding Undergraduate Research Poster” award presented at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in October.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer noted that Dr. Paulus was named the 2008 U.S. Community College Professor of the Year. Dr. Paulus met with students this past summer and on weekends to help them produce this award-winning poster. There were approximately 600 posters presented throughout conference sessions, including ones from students in China, Iran, Edinburgh, India, Montreal, among others.

- Paul Carney, faculty member at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, was selected to be on a national team helping to develop common core standards in K-12 math and English/language.

Also selected to participate in the teams were four representatives from the Minnesota Department of Education, a representative from the University of Minnesota and a representative from Spring Lake Park High School.

- Distance Minnesota won a silver award for its enterprising use of RightNow technology in optimizing the customer experience. The award was given by Gartner and 1 to 1 Media.

Distance Minnesota is a regional collaborative of system colleges which offers online learning experiences and related support services. Member colleges include Alexandria Technical College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Northland Community and Technical College and Northwest Technical College.

- Three system colleges were recognized by e.Republic’s Center for Digital Education and *Converge* magazine as winners of their fifth annual Digital Community Colleges Survey awards.

Lake Superior College was recognized in the category with mid-sized colleges, while Minnesota West Community and Technical College and Mesabi Range Community and Technical College were recognized in the category with colleges having less than 3,000 students.

These colleges were recognized as community colleges across the U.S. that offer exceptional digital technology support to students and educators. Multiple areas were considered, including online registration, distance learning, tutoring and advisory services; technology training for students and faculty; and Web 2.0 social and collaborative capabilities.

- Noelia Urzula Vasquez, a student at Dakota County Technical College, was co-winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award given by the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE).

In 1999, working with her husband, Enrique Garcia Salazar, Vazquez founded La Loma Coffee Shop at Mercado Central, a Latin American marketplace that was just opening on Lake Street in Minneapolis. The coffee shop evolved into Cafeteria La Loma and the couple has gone on to start La Loma Mexican Restaurants, a catering business and wholesale tamale business that serves more than 260 stores in Minnesota and is on track to expand sales nationwide. The company has 35 employees and annual sales topping \$2.5 million.

3. Bush Foundation Report on Teacher Education

Presenters:

Peter Hutchinson, President, Bush Foundation

Susan Heegard, Vice President and Educational Achievement Team Leader, Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation is embarking on a \$40 million, 10-year Educational Achievement Initiative aimed at reforming teacher education in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The goal is for the Foundation and its educational partners to place at least 25,000 new, highly effective teachers in classrooms during the next decade.

Four system universities have already received planning grants from the Foundation. They participated in four summits from June to November 2009 where teams of experts worked to refine their education reform proposals.

Ms. Heegard said the 14 universities from the three states chosen to continue in the initiative have been informed, but since negotiations with them are continuing, a public announcement will not be made until December 3, 2009.

The universities have committed to fundamentally and drastically change the way in which they recruit, prepare, place and support teachers in the classroom, she said. It is understood that the reform effort can succeed only if there is a close working relationship with the K-12 partners, she said.

There will be an emphasis on teacher support and retention after graduation, Ms. Heegard said. This may happen in the higher education institution, school district or via online. Many teachers leave the profession within five years of graduation and the Bush Foundation anticipates that enhanced classroom support will improve the retention rate.

Mr. Hutchinson said the Bush Foundation sees the grants to participating universities as an investment. A multi-year, multi-million dollar commitment is

envisioned, but dollars will be available to the universities only when and if they reach the specific milestones and achievements which are now being negotiated.

In addition, each of the universities will be able to earn a performance payment which will be based on the number and effectiveness of the teachers they produce, he said.

There will be other investments made by the Bush Foundation, Mr. Hutchinson said. One involves the development of value-added methodology which will be used to measure teacher effectiveness. The collected data will be made available not only to the teachers, but also to the preparing institutions.

A vigorous effort to recruit people into teaching who are not currently being recruited will help the institutions produce effective teachers, he said. The foundation is finishing a major market research piece to help determine what it will take to successfully recruit not only exemplary high school students, but also people in the workforce who may be open to teaching.

Ms. Heegard said the Educational Achievement Initiative will involve only the 14 teacher education programs selected. It is hoped that they will be able to develop best practices which can be shared with other teacher education programs in the region.

Mr. Hutchinson said one of the major challenges the initiative faces is sustained leadership over the 10-year timeframe. If presidential or teacher program leadership changes, it will be imperative that the new leadership have the same level of commitment to the reform outcomes, he said.

Another risk to the reform effort would be a lack of operational funding. The Bush Foundation dollars are not designed to run and operate teacher preparation programs, he said. If it appears operational dollars for teacher education programs are disappearing, it will raise questions with the Foundation's Board on whether continued investment is warranted, he said.

Trustee Van Houten asked how the system will assign accountability for the reform efforts at each of the four institutions. Will the presidents will be directed to oversee the effort, or will those decisions be left to campus administration, such as provosts or deans? He said it is an important issue to determine early in the process.

Chancellor McCormick said he thinks the accountability for the reforms should rest with the presidents. If there is a presidential change at a participating university, the Board of Trustees will need to ensure that presidential candidates are aware of and understand the commitment and expectations involved with this initiative.

Trustee Van Houten suggested that the Human Resources Committee be made aware of the additional accountability factor for these presidents to ensure that it is included in presidential searches.

Chancellor McCormick said he would like to see enhanced training and support for school principals be considered for future funding by the Bush Foundation. They are an important piece of this reform effort, he said.

4. Study Session: Technical Education

Presenter:

Manuel M. López, Associate Vice Chancellor for Learning, Technology and Programmatic Innovations

At the September 2009 meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Trustees raised questions regarding the vitality of career and technical education in the system.

Trustees were presented a report that outlined enrollment trends and issues in career and technical education in Minnesota.

Dr. López said while career and technical education offerings may have decreased as a relative proportion of overall enrollment, they continue to be stable and colleges continue to be responsive to business and industry needs. He noted:

- Enrollment in career and technical education has remained stable over the last five years;
- Customized training enrollments have increased in the last five years;
- The Office of Legislative Auditors notes that “Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system generally does a good job of assessing economic conditions and workforce trends;
- General education is a desirable, growing and necessary component of preparing an individual to be occupational component;
- Even under the current adverse economic conditions, the system is experiencing a greater number of additions (215) than removals (167) in career and technical programs;
- As recently as 2007, Minnesota ranked first regionally in both actual post-secondary career and technical education enrollments and population-standardized post-secondary career and technical education enrollments.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said recent visits with 350 business industry leaders showed they want and need workers who not only have proficient technological skills, but also have critical business skills, such as the ability to read, write, communicate effectively and work in teams.

Chair McElroy said there is a concern about what programs are identified as technical programs. Does the data show if technical programs related to the

medical or health field are the ones being added, while those being deleted are those in construction or manufacturing?

Dr. López said the enrollment data in the report shows the manufacturing cluster registered both the largest numerical and percent gain of any career and technical education cluster during the period from 2005-2009. Enrollment in precision manufacturing grew by over 44 percent and in heavy/industrial equipment maintenance grew by 207 percent.

Trustee Sundin asked if there has been any data collected on whether or not the drop in construction and heavy equipment enrollment is related to the fact that some unions now provide their own apprenticeship training. These union-sponsored apprenticeship programs are likely taking some potential students from the system, she said, adding it may be advantageous for the system to consider collaborating with unions on such programs.

Trustee Benson said it may be helpful to have information on graduates in technical education programs, not just enrollment data. Dr. López said he can do some further research to see if this data is available and, if so, he will share it with the Trustees.

5. St. Cloud Technical College Mission Change

Presenters:

Joyce Helens, President, St. Cloud Technical College

Susan Schlicht, faculty president, St. Cloud Technical College

Alfredo Oliveira, Student Senate President, St. Cloud Technical College

St. Cloud Technical College is proposing to change its mission so that it can move from being a technical college to being a comprehensive two-year college that offers its own associate of arts (AA) degree.

At the September 2009 meeting, a motion to approve the mission change was not approved because of concerns that a change in mission could affect technical education offered at the college, as well as system-wide. Chair McElroy asked that the mission change proposal be brought back for future discussion at the November committee meeting.

Susan Schlicht read a proclamation from the St. Cloud Chapter of the Minnesota State College Faculty supporting the mission change. Alfredo Oliveira read a proclamation from the Student Senate also endorsing the mission change.

Trustee Dickson commended the college for the thoroughness of the mission change documentation.

Trustee Van Houten said his concern pertains to a how a change in leadership could affect the college's technical mission in the future. He asked if any plans are in place to ensure that technical programs remain a priority in the future.

President Helens said the organizational structure of St. Cloud Technical College is different than that of a university or even a community college. There is a dean of Trade and Industry and associate deans. The technical programs have a strong connection to advisory councils. There is a structure in place that recognizes the importance of technical education and any presidential candidate considered for the post should see technical education as a priority, she said.

A related issue is the cost of technical education programs, Trustee Van Houten said. A technical program that requires special equipment or labs is typically more expensive to provide than a general education program. He said it will be important for the technical programs to maintain their clout when it comes to space and funding decisions.

President Helens said the college is committed to keeping technical education funded, healthy and strong since will continue to be an important part of the college's mission.

Chair McElroy asked if the evaluation of college presidents could include an evaluation on the status of their technical education programs.

Chancellor McCormick said the expectation is that enrollment, not cost, be the main factor in the decisions pertaining to the closure of a technical program. Technical programs, he added, are funded at a different rate than general education programs.

When candidates are recruited for leadership posts at colleges that have strong traditions in technical education, their background and commitment to technical education should be considered, Chancellor McCormick said. Leaders who understand the importance of both community college and technical education programming should be selected. He added it is possible for a college to do both types of programming well.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said when programs are considered for closure, regional solutions should be considered. Colleges are encouraged to work together as a way to continue to serve students, communities, businesses and industries in the best way possible.

Trustee Van Houten said he would like to see more detailed information on program closures be presented to the Board.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said a quarterly report on program activity will be presented in January 2010.

A motion was made by Trustee Dickson and seconded by Trustee Benson that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the St. Cloud Technical College request to change its mission to become a comprehensive two-year college. The new mission is, “St. Cloud Technical and Community College prepares students for life-long learning by providing career, technical and transferable education.” The motion passed unanimously.

6. Conferred Honorary Degree Report, Spring 2009

An informational report on Honorary Degrees conferred in Spring 2009 was presented as required in Part 7 of Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 am

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Takash, Recorder