

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIVERSITY AND MULTICUTURALISM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2010**

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Present: Trustees Duane Benson, Chair; Clarence Hightower, Vice Chair; Christopher Frederick; Louise Sundin; Terri Thomas

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Absent: Thomas Renier

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Cheryl Dickson, Jacob England, Ruth Grendahl, Dan McElroy, Christine Rice, Scott Thiss, James Van Houten

Leadership Council Members Present: Whitney Stewart Harris, Executive Director; Edna Szymanski, President

A meeting of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee was held on June 15, 2010, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor Board Room, 30 7th Street East, St. Paul. Chair Benson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. Minutes of the May 19, 2010 Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee

The minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

2. Diversity and Multiculturalism Division Update

Trustee Benson called on Dr. Whitney Harris to give the update.

Operations

- The Diversity and Multiculturalism and Public Relations divisions won a national award, the Silver Anvil Award, from the Public Relations Society of America for their "Make college a part of your future" campaign. The collaborative project grew out of ideas generated at a Board of Trustees retreat.
- The Community Action Diversity Council met recently. The members continue to be very supportive of the Access, Opportunity and Success Initiative and request that their support be expressed to the Board of Trustees. They are excited about the programs and believe they are making a significant difference. In addition, the council expressed concern about the shortage of diversity among senior administrators in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The members requested that representatives from the Human Resources division meet with the Community Action Diversity Council to explore this matter.

- The Diversity and Multiculturalism division is holding an Asian-focused youth leadership retreat in collaboration with the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. Developing leadership is one of the predictors of college success. Ten mentors from system institutions and fifty developing young leaders are participating. Participants from last year's retreat gave a presentation to Office of the Chancellor two weeks ago at a Diversity Brown Bag.

In answer to a question from Trustee Hightower, Dr. Harris said that the Community Action Diversity Council was established four years ago, made up of non-system representatives from around the state. The group meets quarterly to look at issues as outlined in the System Strategic Plan and the Chancellor's Work Plan and to advise and offer insights to the division.

3. Access, Opportunity and Success Initiative Update

Dr. Harris reminded the Board that the Access, Opportunity and Success Initiative was funded with \$11 million for FY 2010; \$7.4 million of that was allocated to the campuses, 3.4 million was allocated to the three Access and Opportunity Centers, and \$200,000 was made available for diversity activities through the Office of the Chancellor. Much of this money was used to fund the "Make college a part of your future" campaign.

At the last meeting, Trustee Hightower requested an update on progress of those activities. While there have been periodic progress reports from the centers, Dr. Harris invited Dr. Craig Schoenecker, System Director for Research, to discuss the program results from the system by presenting and analyzing recruitment data. Dr. Harris referred Board members to the Board documents for a description of the distribution and uses of funds.

Dr. Schoenecker reported enrollment trends; in the fall he hopes to have a more comprehensive analysis of both enrollment trends and changes in persistence and completion. This analysis will provide further information about which support services and strategies are most effective.

Over multiple years, there has been a substantial increase in underrepresented students, both at the universities and the colleges. Underrepresented students at system universities have increased from approximately 21,000 to approximately 23,500; at the colleges, they have increased from approximately 53,000 to approximately 72,000. Underrepresented students are defined as students of color, Pell eligible students, and/or First Generation students. There has been growth in overall enrollment and substantial growth in each of the categories of underrepresented students, in particular Pell eligible students, but also students of color and First Generation students.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of new underrepresented students. The percentage of new Pell eligible students has increased by 40 percent. One of the reasons for analyzing the percentage of new students is that it is a leading indicator of

future trends. In the fall of 2005, the system had 26,000 new underrepresented students, whereas there were 35,000 new underrepresented students in fall of 2009. During the same period, there was a substantial growth in underrepresented continuing students, from about 48,000 to 60,000. There has been stronger growth among males than females in all underrepresented categories.

4. Diversity and Multiculturalism Division Annual Performance Report

Dr. Harris called the Board's attention to the Diversity and Multiculturalism division annual performance report in the Board documents and asked for questions.

In answer to a question about what consulting contracts included, Dr. Harris said that the figures include such items as the minnesotadiversity.com advertising campaign and interpreter services for Super Weekend.

Trustee Hightower asked if it was true that the Chancellor's office has about \$700,000 to manage the diversity activities of the system. Dr. Harris clarified that the division funds are not only used for diversity but for affirmative action and monitoring compliance with relevant Board, state, and federal equal opportunity and nondiscrimination policies.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gale Rohde