

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2010**

Advancement Committee Members Present: Trustees Cheryl Dickson, chair; Jacob Englund, vice chair; Clarence Hightower, Alfredo Oliveira, Christine Rice, Louise Sundin.

Leadership Council Committee Members Present: President Don Supalla, Gail Olson, Linda Kohl, Mary Davenport and Maria McLemore.

Other Trustees Present: Board Chair Scott Thiss, Duane Benson, Phil Krinkie, Thomas Reiner Michael Vekich.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Advancement Committee met September 14, 2010, at the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities office in St. Paul. Chair Cheryl Dickson called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

Approval of the Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 20, 2010, Advancement Committee meeting were approved without dissent.

1. Advancement Update

Mary Davenport, director of government relations, presented a federal update. At the time of the meeting, 12 days were left in the current federal fiscal year; no appropriation bills had been passed. An increase for Pell grants were included in the House Education Appropriations bill but not in the Senate bill. The Senate bill includes some funding for earmarked education projects, but the House bill does not include the funding, choosing instead to fund the Pell grant increase. It was also reported that the White House plans to hold a Community College Summit in early October.

Maria McLemore, executive director for system and foundation relations, reported that the foundation is posting fundraising grants received by the campuses on its website. A \$50,000 grant was given from Alliance Pipeline to the South Central College campus in North Mankato for mechatronics students (those in mechanical, electronic or computer engineering programs). The Otto Bremer Foundation gave a 2-year matching grant for dislocated workers at Northland Community and Technical College. Minnesota State University Moorhead received \$2 million in matching funds for a campus wellness center. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation received a \$300,000 grant from the Alliss Education

Foundation for the Alliss Scholarship for students who have been out of the classroom for seven years or more, and \$99,802 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for a regional professional science masters program. The foundation received word that it will receive a six-figure grant for the Board's priority of degree completion; McLemore will share more at a future meeting. The Development Division is hosting a Fall/Winter Professional Development Series beginning October 1, 2010 with a mini grant workshop with speaker Joshua Birkholz, an expert on using data and analytics.

Linda Kohl, associate vice chancellor for public affairs, thanked the trustees for their work at the State Fair. Many people attended the event and commented on the bridge made by Minnesota State University, Mankato engineering students and faculty. One theme present at the state fair this year was grandparents who were working to finance the education of their grandchildren. The staff is currently seeking feedback from those who worked at the fair to determine how to improve the booth. Kohl reported that the new version of *Go Places* has been published. This is in high demand by high school guidance counselors. Included in the booklet is information on how to save on college or stretch funds while in college.

2. Discuss and Select Committee Goals

The committee reviewed the goals set out at the July meeting. Chair Dickson asked for the committee to approve the goals of increased trustee visibility and increased board outreach and advocacy. A motion was made, seconded and adopted.

3. Trustee Visit to Campuses – Protocols

Chair Dickson presented a document on how to increase trustee visibility on the campuses. The first draft of this document only recorded the number of visits made by trustees. An updated version now measures outcomes. The document was specifically crafted as a guideline; trustees should feel free to self-select which campuses to visit. It is recommended that trustees visit while classes are in session. The trustees can also make visits during commencement time, if approved by the presidents. President Supalla reported that presidents are looking forward to hosting the trustees on campuses. All visits to campuses will be recorded through the Board Office, which will also help to coordinate the details. Chair Dickson also pointed out that the written follow-up form will allow the Board to keep records about the campuses visited.

4. Trustee Interaction with the Legislature

Mary Davenport, Executive Director of Government Relations, presented a work plan for the Board's goal to actively engage trustees with the legislative process to increase familiarity

with the process and to advance the system and the 2011 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities legislative agenda. Evaluations will be conducted to measure the effectiveness and value of the work plan outcomes.

The Minnesota State College Student Association and the Minnesota State University Student Association have accepted an invitation by the Board of Trustees to partner with the board to produce and disseminate information about the upcoming gubernatorial election. Gubernatorial candidates will respond to questions about higher education posed by Chair Thiss and student Caitlin Stene. The interviews will be taped and produced at Minnesota Satellite and Technology and posted online.

5. Advancement Chair updates

Chair Cheryl Dickson reported that she has visited the Foundation Board and will be continuing to meet with this board of volunteers. Chair Dickson also shared that *Washington Monthly* named St. Paul College as the number one college in the nation; and seven system colleges were named in the report of top colleges. A copy of this magazine will be shared with all trustees, gubernatorial candidates and legislators on the higher education committee or representing the area.

6. Restructuring of the Advancement Division in the Office of the Chancellor

Linda Kohl, Executive Director of Public Affairs, reported that the foundation office, the government relations division and the public affairs division will be combined into one unit under one director. Four staff positions will be cut out of the current 12.8 positions. The system magazine will no longer be published as a result of the budget cuts. The system will continue to operate the system's website, state fair, and *Go Places*. The lobbying function will be maintained under government relations. The new division will also maintain compliance of the development office.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Walz, Recorder