

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 16, 2010**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Chair Christine Rice; Trustees Duane Benson, Christopher Frederick, David Paskach, Tom Renier, Louise Sundin and James Van Houten.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Scott Thiss, Alfredo Oliveira and Cheryl Dickson.

Leadership Council Committee Co-Chairs Present: Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson and President Sue Hammersmith.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on November 16, 2010, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 2:55 pm.

1. Minutes of September 15, 2010

The minutes from the September 14, 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

2. Academic and Student Affairs Update – Interim Vice Chancellor Olson

Several Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' colleges and universities have been granted concurrent enrollment accreditation by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). These colleges and universities are:

- Riverland Community College
- Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Southwest Minnesota State University

Concurrent enrollment is the form of delivering Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) through which students take college or university courses in their high schools, taught by high school teachers who are paired with faculty partners or mentors to ensure the quality of the courses they deliver.

In addition the course offerings and faculty who teach them, this milestone is an important recognition of the high quality of concurrent enrollment programs offered by these institutions, in part because the Minnesota legislature has recognized NACEP accreditation in statute as a key measure of quality.

These three campuses join Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, which is also NACEP accredited.

- A Centers of Excellence Summit was hosted at the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul in October. Among those attending were business and industry leaders, campus presidents and Centers of Excellence staff.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said the business and industry leaders in attendance expressed strong support for the Centers of Excellence. They said the Board should pay attention to the long-term sustainability of centers since they are valuable to workforce development.

Chair Rice said she attended the summit and left convinced that the Centers of Excellence are critical to meeting the state's workforce needs in the future. The centers are providing a great return on investment, she said.

3. Mission Reaffirmations

Bemidji State University

Presenter: Richard Hanson, President

The visions, mission and purposes presented by Bemidji State University reaffirm the institutional mission approved by the Board of Trustees in 1998.

The Bemidji State University mission is: Engage. Embrace. Educate. As northern Minnesota's university, we engage in new worlds of thought, embrace responsible citizenship, and educate for a future that can only be imagined.

President Hanson said Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College – Bemidji have a seamless administrative alignment in areas such as: student affairs, human resources, technology and business affairs. The institutions remain as stand-alone institutions and are accredited separately, but they function as one administratively.

The president spoke of the campus "recalibration," the phrase that he's using to describe restructuring caused by state budget constraints. He said he fully expects the university will come out of the process stronger, more focused and more distinctive than ever.

The university continues to have strong connections in the region, including partnerships with the three tribal nations, the Sanford Regional Events Center and regional business and industry groups.

The Bemidji State University Bachelor of Applied Engineering is a first-class, innovative program, Trustee Van Houten said. The program allows people who have a two-year technical degree to apply their credits toward the applied engineering baccalaureate degree.

Trustee Van Houten asked why this university has the highest tuition of any university in the system.

Vice Chancellor Laura King said the Board of Trustees approved a large increase in tuition at Bemidji State University in the late 1990s. The president at that time advocated for a substantially higher tuition rate, saying the market in the Bemidji area would support the rate increase and that the additional money would allow the university to be more entrepreneurial. The rate differential approved at that time is the basis for the current tuition differences among the universities, she said.

President Hanson said he is concerned about the higher tuition rate at Bemidji State University since it affects students' access to higher education in the region.

The enrollment of males at Northwest Technical College is low at 28 percent, Trustees Van Houten noted. President Hanson said that may be attributed to the college's large nursing program, which is predominately female. The college's business programs also have a large female enrollment, he said.

A motion was made by Trustee Frederick and seconded by Trustee Van Houten that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Bemidji State University to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. Motion carried.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenter: Richard Davenport, President

The institutional mission for Minnesota State University, Mankato, was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1996.

The university's mission statement is: Minnesota State University, Mankato promotes learning through effective undergraduate and graduate teaching, scholarship and research in service to the state, the region and the global community.

President Davenport said the university continues to educate the workforce and meet the critical needs of the region and the state. There are currently 15,400 students enrolled, including 700 international students from 82 countries.

While the university still attracts a substantial enrollment of new students emerging from high school, the university is experiencing an increase of non-traditional students. The student body is changing dramatically due to age, he said.

The university strives to embrace big ideas and global perspectives, and these have been built into university curriculum. They are also experimenting with a

three-year baccalaureate option which is hoped to be piloted soon. A major goal is to graduate more students in a four-year timeframe.

Trustee Van Houten said he is troubled with a statement included in the university's materials. That statement is: "We will think and act like a Doctoral Institution." Thinking and acting like a doctoral institution implies that research has equal weight with teaching, Trustee Van Houten said. He said he could not support the mission reaffirmation if the university is intent on pulling away from its stated mission as an undergraduate and graduate teaching institution.

President Davenport said the university continues to be a comprehensive undergraduate and master's degree institution. The addition of selective doctoral programs does not mean the university will abandon its core mission, he said. However, the new doctoral programs have enhanced undergraduate programs in different ways. For example, there has been a surge in research activity at the university, which complements the university's overall baccalaureate training.

Minnesota State University, Mankato recently opened the Undergraduate Research Center which assists and helps to financially support both students and faculty members with their undergraduate research. In 2009-2010, faculty brought in \$16 million in sponsored grants and research.

Applied research efforts at Minnesota State University, Mankato are not in conflict with what is offered at the University of Minnesota, President Davenport added. Minnesota State University, Mankato offers applied doctorates in nursing, education, educational leadership and school psychology.

Chair Rice noted that the university is currently requesting a mission reaffirmation, not a mission change. The Legislature allowed state universities to offer selective applied doctoral programs.

Trustee Van Houten said he was still troubled by the doctoral statement. Saying the university will think and act like a doctoral institution could trigger a change in institutional strategy and hiring guidelines, he said. He said he would oppose the university's mission reaffirmation based on this statement. It should be sent back to the university for revision, he said.

A motion was made by Trustee Frederick and seconded by Trustee Renier that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Minnesota State University, Mankato to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. The motion carried, with Trustee Van Houten voting against it.

4. Progress on Committee Goals

As part of the 2011 work plan, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee will study and consider implementation of the following goals:

- Study the pros and cons of implementing a three-year baccalaureate program and a 12-month calendar;
- Study the pros and cons of moving responsibility for remedial education from the universities to the colleges.

President Hammersmith said the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Leadership Council discussed these goals at its November meeting. Presidents agreed that more information is needed before any decisions could be made pertaining to these goals. For example, data on the current status of remedial education in the system, including the number and characteristics of students, forms of remedial education and the overall success rate of these students, needs to be considered.

As far as the three-year baccalaureate, it would be important to know baseline information, such as how many high school students are entering the system with credits earned through advanced placement or PSEO. Presidents also want to know how well these options are publicized to perspective students and their parents.

Constituent groups need to be brought into any discussion about these goals, Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said. There are issues pertaining to terms and conditions of employment, as well as shared governance. Faculty and administration feedback, as well as student reaction, would need to be considered, he said.

Chair Rice said Dr. Robert Zemsky, a national expert on implementation of the three-year baccalaureate, says while reform may be difficult, it is possible. He encourages bold use of promoting the senior year in high school as the first year of college, allowing students to get general coursework completed early.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said a proposed pilot program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, on a three-year baccalaureate degree could be a part of the study. There is also another campus in the system willing to pilot a 12-month calendar, he said.

Trustee Oliveira asked if an institution's accreditation could be affected if it adopts a three-year baccalaureate or 12-month calendar.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said accreditation issues would need to be considered and he has plans to talk with Higher Learning Commission representatives soon about this issue.

Trustee Thiss said the study of these goals appears to be a large, complex project and asked if the study can be completed by the June deadline.

Chair Rice said a study session is planned for December to gather more information on remedial education.

5. Development of the 2012-2014 System Action Plan

An adjustment to the timeline by which the Board adopts its system action plan and corresponding institutional work plan is being considered.

Currently, the Board of Trustees' system action plan is approved in August. By that time, presidents have already formulated plans for their upcoming academic year. President Hammersmith said if the Board would have the first reading of its draft system action plan in March with final approval in April, presidents would be able to incorporate system priorities in their plans for the upcoming academic year.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said this adjustment would be popular with presidents and others involved in planning at the campus level. He said another thing to consider would be multi-year action plans.

President Hammersmith agreed. The change would help presidents be more effectively responsive to the direction set by the Board.

Trustee Thiss said he supports this timeline adjustment, as well as the multi-year plans. While the second-year plans could be modified, the overall direction would be beneficial to presidents, he said.

6. Follow-up to OLA Evaluation of the System Office

The Committee is being asked to review the actions taken by the Academic and Student Affairs Division in response to recommendations made in the Office of Legislative Auditor's evaluation of the Office of the Chancellor.

The Board of Trustees must provide a report to the Legislature on these actions by October 1.

Oversight of student credit transfer: After a survey of students pertaining to transfer concerns, a Smart Transfer Plan was adopted. The Board of Trustees also passed an amendment establishing the requirement that colleges and universities post course outlines on their websites, making DARS and u.select the official repository of course equivalents and requiring that colleges and universities keep those databases up to date. Students also must be informed about the opportunities to appeal decisions on credit transfer.

Systemwide academic planning and curriculum development: Preliminary versions of a revised process accommodating regional planning/consultation on new programs and program closures has been discussed with presidential leadership and is under consideration.

Approval of campus proposals to begin, revise or close programs: A new automated program approval process that streamlines the process for campuses, as well as Office of the Chancellor staff, is being developed with implementation in early summer.

Faculty professional development: The Center for Teaching and Learning has been restructured and staff has been reduced. Institutions will be providing these services.

Oversight of customized training and continuing education: The system director position in this area has been eliminated and a business and industry advisory council has been created.

Oversight of specialized training in firefighting and emergency medical services: The firefighter training and EMT components and the library of the Fire Center will be eliminated or relocated to a campus. Remaining regulatory, compliance and emergency preparedness functions will be assigned to the Facilities unit.

Impact and cost effectiveness of online instruction: Minnesota Online continues to induce colleges/universities to adopt Quality Matters, which is a faculty-centered, peer review process that is designed to certify the quality of online and blended courses. Quality Matters is a leader in quality assurance for online education and has received national recognition.

The Minnesota Online Council approved a competency framework for the development of a resource to prepare faculty to teach online.

Minnesota Online has a service legal agreement with Research and Planning to develop a student-success measure and course-completion measure for the accountability dashboard.

Associate Vice Chancellor Manuel López said data from Noel-Levitz' Priorities Survey for Online Learners is being analyzed by Minnesota Online staff to identify areas for improvement.

As for cost of online instruction, President Hammersmith said online courses tend to be more expensive since they have to be limited in size. Online courses also require added resources in that technical professionals are needed to design and provide online coursework.

As for effective online instruction, Trustee Van Houten suggested and the best in-house talent could be used to teach others how to teach online courses. That way instruction would be uniform throughout the system. Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said this is a good suggestion.

7. Recognition of SkillsUSA Award Recipients

A record number of students in technical and career education programs at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities won gold, silver and bronze medals at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City this past June.

Overall, 31 system students won medals – eight gold, seven silver and 16 bronze in skills areas such as crime scene investigation, power equipment technology, residential wiring, sheet metal, automated manufacturing technology cabinetmaking, entrepreneurship and leadership.

SkillsUSA Minnesota has been in operation since 1965, Executive Director Jennifer Polz said. The organization aims to create a strong partnership of students, teachers, industries working together to ensure a skilled workforce.

Contests at the national conference are developed and written by industry experts, she said. There are 96 technical contests and 30 leadership contests. Contestants have to complete written and hands-on competition in their skills areas, as well as oral assessments.

Over 5,600 students participated in the national competition.

All winners in the SkillsUSA competition were formally recognized by the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder