



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2011  
8:00 AM**

**WELLS FARGO PLACE  
30 7TH STREET EAST  
ROOM 3310, 3RD FLOOR  
SAINT PAUL, MN**

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*In addition to committee members attending in person, additional committee or board members may participate by telephone. Members of the public may attend in person.*

**Executive Committee Agenda**

*Scott Thiss, Chair*

- (1) **Minutes of December 8, 2010**
- (2) Update on Searches
- (3) Common Agenda for Higher Education
- (4) Review Draft Schedule/Agenda for Meetings on January 18-19, 2011
- (5) Leadership Council Comments
- (6) Other Business

Executive Committee

Scott Thiss, Chair

Clarence Hightower, Vice Chair

Duane Benson, Treasurer

Cheryl Dickson

Dan McElroy

Christine Rice

Louise Sundin

**BOLD denotes action item**

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 8, 2010**

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Executive Committee Members Present: Scott Thiss, Chair, Duane Benson, Clarence Hightower, Dan McElroy, Christine Rice and Louise Sundin

Executive Committee Members Absent: Cheryl Dickson

Other Members Present: James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th St., E., 3rd Floor, Room, Saint Paul, on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Chair Scott Thiss convened the meeting at 8:00 AM and announced that a quorum was present. Trustee Christine Rice participated by conference call.

**(1) Minutes of November 3, 2010**

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of November 3, 2010, were accepted as written.

**(2) Update on Searches**

Lori Lamb, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, provided an update on searches. The chancellor search is on schedule. The candidate pool was of high quality and much larger than expected. Initial screening of the candidates has taken place and confidential interviews will be scheduled next.

Trustee Duane Benson commented on how candidates may be hindered from applying because of Minnesota's Open Meeting Law. He proposed collaborating with the University of Minnesota to work with the Legislature on amending the law to be less restrictive on searches. Vice Chancellor Lamb noted that it may be a worthy discussion as it is a barrier for candidates to go through the public process. General Counsel Gail Olson added that the University of Minnesota tried to close its search for the last president and the courts disagreed. The University of Minnesota found that there was no political will to change the law at that time. The Open Meeting Law applies to all applicants, not just high profile candidates. Chair Thiss commented that the Board of Trustees will follow the Open Meeting Law during the search. The Board of Trustees will interview the candidates on February 2, 2011.

Vice Chancellor Lamb gave an update on the presidential searches. Cecelia Cervantes, President, Hennepin Technical College is chairing the search for the president of Saint Paul College. Larry Lundblad, President, Central Lakes College, is chairing the search for the president of Century College, and Keith Stover, President South Central College, is chairing the search for the president of Anoka Technical College and Anoka-Ramsey Community and Technical College. The schedule is for Chancellor McCormick to recommend candidates at the March and April Board of Trustees meetings.

Responding to a question about the skill set for the president of Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Anoka Technical College, Vice Chancellor Lamb spoke of the

different needs of each college and to the importance of setting the groundwork for consolidations. She and Chancellor McCormick have met with the campus communities. Also, one consultant has been hired for all three searches which will make it easier for candidates who may be interested in more than one of the positions. Vice Chancellor Lamb explained that this is a pilot but campus people also thought it a good idea.

### **(3) Electronic Board Books – iPad**

Chair Thiss reported that a question came up at the last meeting on electronic board materials. He added that at one time the Board Office printed and distributed over 200 board packets. The materials now are available on-line, reducing the number of printed packets to less than 75. Trustee Cheryl Dickson has inquired about using iPads as an alternative way for the Board to receive meeting materials. Chair Thiss proposed having a pilot study on the use of iPads. Trustee Jacob Englund has an iPad and has offered to use it and report on its feasibility. Trustee Christine Rice also owns one and may be interested in participating in the pilot study.

Vice Chancellor Darrel Huish reported that he has done some research on the iPad and board books. It is an idea with high potential and the ability to go green, but it is an unproven path at this point. While several governing boards currently are using this technology, he was not sure if there is success. Vice Chancellor Huish supported conducting a pilot study. General Counsel Gail Olson said there was no legal impediment to the system purchasing iPads for Trustees. The Board would need to comply with the electronic use policy which would allow for personal emails and system-related items. There are some limitations, such as not conducting business in other parts of your life, partisan politics, no gambling, etc.

Trustee Duane Benson expressed budget concerns. Trustee Rice commented that she was willing to experiment, but she was concerned about its practicality. Responding to Chair Thiss, President Kevin Kopischke commented that a few presidents also may be willing to try accessing the board meeting materials via an iPad. Chair Thiss requested Vice Chancellor Darrel Huish to take the lead in the pilot study of the iPad and to report back in six months.

### **(4) Leadership Council Comments**

Dr. Kevin Kopischke, President, Alexandria Technical and Community College, and co-chair of the Leadership Council reported that Inez Wildwood, a member of the Governor's Workforce Development Council (GWDC), attended the Council's meeting on December 7, 2010, to report on the GWDC's 2011 Policy Advisory, *All Hands on Deck, Sixteen Ideas for Strengthening Minnesota's Workforce*. The first recommendation is to expand the Minnesota FastTRAC Initiative, a career pathways strategy to help Minnesota's lowest wage workers upgrade their skills and attain postsecondary credentials.

President Kopischke reported that the Leadership Council met on the evening of December 6, 2010, for a discussion on the upcoming legislative session. The Council decided to meet again on Monday night, January 3, 2011, to continue the discussion.

**(5) Other Business**

Trustee James Van Houten inquired if data can be obtained on financial earnings based on degrees earned. Trustee McElroy commented that there is information on final degrees, but he is not aware of anything in a traditional labor market. There was a brief discussion, and Chair Thiss proposed referring this item to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson replied that there is internal expertise in this area, and it will be scheduled for a future committee meeting, along with an overview of the FastTRAC Initiative.

Chair Thiss explained that during prior January Board meetings, the second day was held on a metro area campus. Given the focus on the chancellor search during the month of January, he proposed postponing the off-site meeting to another month. The Executive Committee concurred with the proposal.

Chair Thiss noted that the Executive Committee has been meeting for four months now and he asked for any comments on the new process. Vice Chair Hightower commented that he liked it and appreciated that the meeting was no longer right after the Board meeting.

**Adjournment**

Chair Thiss adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.