

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: March 15, 2011

Agenda Item: Mission Approval: Winona State University

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements requires institutions to have their missions approved by the Board at least once every five years.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Judith Ramaley, President, Winona State University

Caitlin Stene, Student, Winona State University

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The vision, mission and purposes presented by Winona State University meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements. The recent change in Board policy to have missions approved every five years prompted the decision to combine this process with the strategic profiles presented by institutions. The combined process will provide additional context for Board approval of institutional missions.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD ACTION

**MISSION APPROVAL:
WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision, mission and goals of Winona State University meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements. The university is proposing a new mission and vision for Board of Trustees review and approval which will be presented as part of their mission profile.

Winona State University’s proposed vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:

Vision

Winona State University aspires to be known for academic excellence, our commitment to promoting the health and well-being of our community and our success in making our university a model of environmental sustainability. We will be a wise steward of the distinctive environment in which we live, study and work and the resources entrusted to our use. Our graduates will be involved, well-educated citizens who make a difference in the changing context of professional practice and community life.

Mission

The mission of Winona State University is to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural and economic vitality of the people and communities we serve. We offer undergraduate programs based on the traditions and values of the arts and sciences and an array of graduate and professional programs that are especially responsive to the needs of the Upper Midwest. We prepare our graduates to serve generously, lead responsibly and respond imaginatively and creatively to the challenges of their work, their lives and their communities. Winona State University is a community of learners improving our world.

Purposes

Purpose 1 -- Invest in academic excellence by supporting innovation and distinctive programming.

Purpose 2 -- Invest in support for student learning and success by enriching the student experience.

Purpose 3 – Build capacity to support our mission.

Purpose 4 -- Make the University a working model of scholarship and creative solution-finding in action as well as a laboratory for the practice of contemporary democracy.

1
2 **Purpose 5** -- Develop a clear vision for WSU programs in Rochester and continue to work with
3 RCTC to provide coordinated student support services; and with RCTC and the University of
4 Minnesota—Rochester develop career pathways and programmatic collaboration to serve the
5 needs of the Rochester community.

6
7 **Array of Awards**

8 Winona State University awards certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's
9 degrees, applied doctorate degrees, specialist degrees, and graduate certificates.

10
11 **REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES**

12 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Winona State University meet the criteria
13 identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and
14 Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

15
16 As required by procedure, the institution must:

- 17 A. Describe how its mission and vision align with the requirements in Policy 3.24;
- 18 B. Articulate how the college or university will meet expectations of law, how it relates to
19 other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision, and purposes
20 support fulfillment of the system mission and vision;
- 21 C. Describe the array of awards it offers;
- 22 D. Indicate if the college or university mission is compliant with statute, policy, and
23 regional accreditation requirements; and
- 24 E. Describe consultation with faculty and staff, students, employers and other essential
25 stakeholders.

26 Additionally, the institution's mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional
27 accreditation requirements.

28
29 **ANALYSIS**

30 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Winona State University meet the criteria
31 identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and
32 Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

33
34 **The proposed mission, vision, and purposes respond to the system procedure and is
35 compliant with statute, policy and regional accreditation requirements**

36 Winona State University's vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and
37 regional accreditation requirements. The University mission, vision, and purposes demonstrate
38 alignment with the system mission and vision. The profile summary provided by Winona State
39 University articulates the background, distinctive elements, accreditation, and other related
40 aspects that demonstrate consistency with statute, policy and other requirements.

41
42
43 **The mission, vision, purposes, and array of awards meet expectations of law, how it relates
44 to other institutions of higher education, and how the university will support fulfillment of
45 the system mission and vision**

46 The mission, vision, and purposes of Winona State University support the mission, vision and
47 strategic directions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

48

1 “The **mission** of Winona State University is to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural and
2 economic vitality of the people and communities we serve. We offer undergraduate programs
3 based on the traditions and values of the arts and sciences and an array of graduate and
4 professional programs that are especially responsive to the needs of the Upper Midwest. We
5 prepare our graduates to serve generously, lead responsibly and respond imaginatively and
6 creatively to the challenges of their work, their lives and their communities.
7 Winona State University is a community of learners improving our world.”
8

9 The former mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees in January 1999. It states:
10 The mission of Winona State University is to educate and enlighten our citizenry at a
11 distinctive institution: a community of learners dedicated to improving our world.
12

13 The proposed statement of mission was revised to meet current system requirements for content
14 and format. While the details of the mission statement have evolved to accommodate changing
15 times and responsibilities, its core message has remained consistent for nearly two decades -- *A*
16 *community of learners improving our world* -- this phrase remains the constant expression of
17 philosophy and continues to guide the institution.
18

19 In its mission statement, the university advances the system mission by pursuing the following-

- 20 • **Be distinct and collaborative** by embodying tradition yet embracing innovation.
- 21 • **Meet the personal and career goals of a wide range of individual learners** by being
22 responsive to the needs of the upper Midwest where professional and service occupations –
23 particularly in education, health care, social services and technology – are expected to grow.
- 24 • **Enhance the quality of life for all Minnesotans** by offering educational and cultural
25 opportunities for the greater community and serving the community by placing an emphasis
26 on preparing graduates for a life of community service and leadership.
- 27 • **Sustain vibrant economies** by contributing to the economic viability of the Winona
28 community, the State and the region.
29

30 The **vision** statement expands on how the university will achieve its mission in noting that
31 “Winona State University aspires to be known for academic excellence, our commitment to
32 promoting the health and well-being of our community and our success in making our
33 university a model of environmental sustainability. We will be a wise steward of the
34 distinctive environment in which we live, study and work and the resources entrusted to our
35 use. Our graduates will be involved, well-educated citizens who make a difference in the
36 changing context of professional practice and community life.”
37
38

39 In advancing this vision, Winona State University is committed to the following:
40

- 41 • We will be a wise steward of the distinctive environment in which we live, study and work
42 and the resources entrusted to our use.
- 43 • We will be known for academic excellence, our commitment to promoting the health and
44 well-being of our community and our success in making our university a model of
45 environmental sustainability.
- 46 • Our graduates will be involved, well-educated citizens who make a difference in the
47 changing context of professional practice and community life.
48

49 The vision of Winona State University will help achieve the vision of the system by:

1 **Being accessible** as a community of learners valuing inclusiveness, encouraging faculty-student
2 interaction in the classroom, in research and creative projects and in extracurricular activities,
3 promoting extension of learning into the surrounding communities through internships, field
4 experiences and projects and collaborations that address community needs and opportunities,
5 improving the community through incorporating community service activities in our coursework,
6 and offering educational and cultural opportunities to the general public.

7
8 Providing **highest value education**, noting that Winona State University is ranked second
9 among public universities in Minnesota in the category of "Best Regional Universities" in the
10 2011 edition of "Best Colleges" by U.S. News Media Group. In addition the Princeton Review, a
11 nationally known education services company, has named Winona State University among the
12 "Best in the Midwest" for the seventh consecutive year.

13
14 The **purposes** of Winona State University and alignment with system strategic directions and
15 priorities are as follows:

16 *Invest in academic excellence by supporting innovation and distinctive programming.* This
17 purpose is in line with the systems' strategic direction two, promoting high-quality learning
18 programs, and strategic direction four, innovating to meet current and future needs. Academic
19 excellence is at the heart of any educational enterprise. At Winona State University increasing
20 our level of academic excellence drives most of our strategic decisions.

21
22 *Invest in support for student learning and success by enriching the student experience.* This
23 purpose is in line with strategic direction one, increasing access and opportunity and strategic
24 direction two, promoting high-quality services. WSU is deeply committed to supporting student
25 success. To accomplish our goal, we must first provide a healthy and safe environment for our
26 students and promote a culture of responsibility. We must identify the critical challenges that
27 accompany each major transition in the student experience, from their first semesters at WSU
28 through to graduation and beyond and provide appropriate support for students passing through
29 these transitions.

30
31 *Build capacity to support our mission.* This purpose is in line with strategic direction four,
32 innovating to meet current and future needs and strategic direction five, sustaining financial
33 viability during changing economic and market conditions, and four, innovating to meet current
34 and future needs. The institution continues to examine and improve structures, technologies,
35 policies, and processes to support transformative innovation (similar to system goal 4.4).

36
37 Additionally, for this year, we have completed the physical structure of our Integrated Wellness
38 Center and we will intensify our efforts to integrate the curriculum, services, and service to the
39 public. Also, our package of strategies called "WSU Goes Green" will define us as an institution
40 with a strong sense of place and a commitment to stewardship of our environment as well as a
41 model for sustainable operation. Our climate commitment addresses our curriculum, our campus
42 operations and our community partnerships.

43
44 *Make the University a working model of scholarship and creative solution-finding in action as
45 well as a laboratory for the practice of contemporary democracy.* This purpose is in line with
46 strategic direction two, promoting high-quality learning and strategic direction four, innovating
47 to meet current and future needs. The nature of professional practice and the challenges of the
48 workplace are changing rapidly across all fields. Success in the 21st Century will require
49 adaptive skills and the ability to apply knowledge in new settings and in new ways to address

1 unexpected and unpredictable problems. Success for Winona State University as well as for each
2 of our faculty, staff and students will depend on our ability individually and together to find
3 creative solutions to complex and ever changing challenges. WSU will be a University whose
4 concept of academic excellence incorporates the qualities of a community of learners improving
5 our world. WSU will become a working model of how 21st century skills and knowledge can be
6 put to good use.

7
8 The **array of awards** provided by Winona State University includes certificates, associate
9 degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, applied doctorate degrees, specialist degrees, and
10 graduate certificates.

11 **Description of consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential** 12 **stakeholders**

13
14 In preparing for an on-site accreditation visit, in fall 2009, the Winona State University Higher
15 Learning Commission (HLC) Steering Committee reviewed the university mission statement that
16 had been approved by the Board of Trustees on January 20, 1999. This review concluded that
17 while the core “community of learners” statement was, in fact, still guiding the institution, the
18 complete mission statement did not fully address current policy requirements in terms of content
19 and format. Additionally, since the existing mission document contained some dated references,
20 the Committee recommended that the WSU Mission Statement be revised.

- 21 • Constituency groups invited to appoint representatives to an Institutional Mission Review
22 Task Force in fall 2009
- 23 • Draft revised statement presented for feedback via four open forums, with one held in
24 Rochester
- 25 • Survey distributed on Assessment Day (February 2010) garnered over 3,000 responses.
26 Survey respondents included not only faculty, staff and students, but foundation
27 members, alumni, retirees, and community members
- 28 • Final draft statement presented to collective bargaining units and Student Senate for
29 feedback
- 30 • Task Force presented final recommendation to President and Council of Administrators
31 for final wording
- 32 • Final mission and vision statement in Campus Profile documents submitted to
33 constituency groups in March 2011

34 35 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

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37 The Academic and Student Affairs committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve
38 the vision, mission, purposes and array of awards of Winona State University as listed in the
39 Executive Summary.

40 41 **RECOMMENDED BOARD MOTION**

42
43 The Board of Trustees approves the vision, mission, purposes and array of awards of Winona
44 State University as listed in the Executive Summary.

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