

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
APRIL 20, 2011**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Duane Benson; Trustees Christopher Frederick, Thomas Renier, Louise Sundin and James Van Houten.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Absent: Trustee Christine Rice and David Paskach.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Cheryl Dickson, Clarence Hightower and Scott Thiss.

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 April 20, 2011, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

1. Minutes of March 15, 2011

The minutes from the March 15, 2011 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

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

- Saint Paul College has been notified that it has received a substantial Bill and Melinda Gates Grant. The college, along with its partner colleges, has been awarded \$750,000 as part of a consortium grant Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC), a new initiative that supports using innovative technology to improve college completion, particularly for low-income young adults.
- The National's Governor's Association Center for Best Practices recently highlighted activities in Minnesota, in "Degrees for What Jobs: Raising Expectations for Universities and Colleges in a Global Economy" (March 2011).

In the report, Minnesota was cited for a number of initiatives, including:

- The creation of centers of excellence to respond to the "needs of specific industries";
- The widespread use of labor market information "to inform key decisions";

- The Minnesota FastTRAC initiative focused on low-skilled adult learners;
 - The system's grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education to fund the Returning Adults to Progress in Degree Completion Program;
- Twenty-four system colleges are participating in a statewide grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor for its Trade Adjustment Act Community College and Career Training Initiative. The grant will focus on MN FastTRAC initiative, the Lumina Foundation degree-completion initiative and regional workforce and industry needs. The collaborative grant, under the leadership of Riverland Community College President Terry Leas, will be submitted in a week or two.
 - The system's accountability dashboard was featured in the U.S. Department of Education's "College Completion Tool Kit" as a best practice.
 - Dakota County Technical College President Ronald Thomas is the recently-elected chair of the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs (NACCE). This organization helps community colleges nationwide link their traditional role of workforce development with entrepreneurial development.
 - The Department of Education is issuing new regulations which will affect system institutions. The regulations involve the state's authority over offering online higher education, the need for programs to show gainful employment and new definitions of a credit hour. The regulations will be challenging, Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said, and the system office is working to keep campuses informed about them.

By July 1, system campuses may need to submit a separate application to each state where they offer online education. General Counsel Gail Olson said one of the challenges is that each state has different requirements and fees. The system has at least one online student in each state and that means educational regulations in every state need to be analyzed.

- Interim Vice Chancellor Olson offered an update on committee goals. Two committees have been formed: one to look at developmental education and another to consider the 12-month calendar and three year baccalaureate. Both committees will be offering Trustees a report at the May Board meeting.

Trustee Sundin noted that the federal government is considering dropping financial aid for summer sessions and that would affect a 12-month calendar arrangement. She asked if this point could be addressed in the May report.

3. 2012-2014 System Action Plan

The Board of Trustees periodically develops a System Action Plan that is based on the Strategic Plan and identifies a select number of priority items for increased attention and activity. This year the Board will be approving a multi-year plan.

The two priority areas selected are based on initial input from presidents, corresponding discussion at the January Board of Trustees study session and subsequent review by the Leadership Council and the Board of Trustees. Those areas are:

Develop a Student Success agenda that advances Minnesota as the most educated state in the nation

- Increase access, opportunity and successes;
- Achieve high-quality learning through a commitment to academic excellence and accountability.

Advance a Fiscal Sustainability Agenda that draws on the collaborative and creative capacity of the System

- Innovate to meet current and future educational needs;
- Sustain financial viability during changing economic and market conditions.

Trustee Dickson said the plan appears to lack strategies which relate to academic excellence and accountability. Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said that additional strategies which address the priority of student success would be added to the plan.

Trustee Sundin said she was concerned that there is no strategy addressing faculty professional development. She said she does not want to see the promotion of exceptional teaching and learning be downgraded to a secondary goal.

Associate Vice Chancellor Leslie Mercer said strategies, or tactics, pertaining to the implementation of the Action Plan are still being developed. This suggestion could be included, she said.

Trustee Van Houten said the plan's stated priorities of advancing student success and also advancing a fiscal sustainability agenda may be in conflict during this time of budgetary constraint. Interim Vice Chancellor Olson agreed, saying the campuses will need to focus on where to put resources so quality learning can be maintained.

If Trustees are comfortable with the stated priorities, staff will work to develop corresponding measurements and outcomes, Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said.

To make the Action Plan more relevant for campuses, the Board will look to finalize it by May, which will allow campuses time to incorporate Action Plan goals into their institutional plans for the upcoming academic year.

Trustee Frederick made a motion, seconded by Trustee Renier, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2012-2014 System Action Plan. Motion carried.

4. Mission Approval: St. Cloud State University

Presenter:

Earl Potter, President

St. Cloud State University (SCSU) is proposing new mission and vision statements and these were presented along with a campus profile.

Starting in 1869 as St. Cloud Normal School with an enrollment of 70 students, SCSU now has 18,300 undergraduate and graduate students from not only Minnesota and other states, but also from 86 countries from around the world. This spring, approximately 85 percent of SCSU students came from Minnesota and over 1,000 are international students.

In fall 2010, SCSU had a fulltime headcount of 12,908 and part-time headcount of 5,215. The largest group of students, comprising 45 percent, is those 21 years old or younger. Students in the 21-24 age group comprise 31 percent of total student population. Fifteen percent of the students were in the 25-34 age group, and 5 percent in the 35-44 age group. Three percent of students enrolled are age 45 or older.

SCSU Strategic Initiative Successes

- Enrollment of students of color has increased from 583 students in 2000 to 1,706 in 2010, which is 9.3 percent of the student body. Among these students, 799 are self-identified Black or African American.
- SCSU was designated a military friendly school by GI Jobs Magazine and a “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campus” by the Minnesota National Guard for providing student veterans and their families with a high quality and caring learning environment.
- SCSU is one of 14 colleges and universities in the Dakotas and Minnesota sharing in a \$40 million Bush Foundation grant aimed at helping schools of education recruit high quality students and guarantee teacher effectiveness among their graduates.
- The innovative Teacher Quality Enhancement project at SCSU has received national recognition for researching and developing co-teaching strategies in the preparation of teacher candidates.
- In Partnership with St. Cloud Technical and Community College and local school districts, SCSU has created the Access and Opportunity program. The program aims to increase participation in college preparatory

coursework in grades 8-12 to improve high school graduation rates and to increase post-secondary participation among underrepresented students.

- The university's Meteorology program is recognized as the best in the Upper Midwest.
- SCSU's accredited Applied Sociology program is the only applied program in the Midwest.
- SCSU has three nationally accredited arts programs in music, theatre and art – the only 4 year institution in the state with this distinction – and they will anchor the newly organized school of the arts.
- The Carnegie Foundation recently awarded SCSU the 2010 community engagement classification for the Advancement of Teaching, recognizing the institutions practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.
- The Minnesota Trade Office satellite office is housed at SCSU's small business development center. This office works with clients who bought or started 53 businesses in 2010 which created 121 jobs and had a capital infusion of \$6.2 million in loans and equity.
- The St. Cloud Technical and Community College Connection program provides an excellent opportunity to begin the college experience. The program is offered to SCSU freshmen applicants who do not qualify for admission to university programs. They are accepted into the program, but take classes taught by SCTCC faculty on the campus of SCSU.
- In partnership with Metropolitan State University, SCSU offers the Masters in Engineering Management degree.
- The applied behavioral analysis program, a completely online graduate program, is a national model for delivering graduate education in the field.

Futures Planning

During summer and fall 2010, SCSU completed a complete reorganization of its academic programs and colleges to align academic and student support structures with the university's vision, mission and Strategic Action Plan. Beginning July 2011, SCSU will be organized into six autonomous colleges and schools with two schools embedded in each of the colleges:

College of Science and Engineering, with an embedded School of Computing, Engineering and Environment;

College of Liberal Arts, with an embedded School of the Arts;

School of Education;

School of Public Affairs;

School of Health and Human Services;

Herberger Business School.

The new organizational structure uses professional focused schools as its primary organizing structure. This was done with the belief that schools that are smaller and more nimble will be able to approach academic program development from

an interdisciplinary perspective and be more responsive to the changing environment.

Trustee Benson said he made a recent visit to SCSU and was impressed. He said much like their mission statement, the university is relevant.

Proposed St. Cloud State University Mission Statement: We prepare our students for life, work and citizenship in the twenty-first century.

Proposed St. Cloud State University Vision Statement: Through active discovery, applied knowledge and creative interaction, we positively transform our students and the communities where they live and work.

A motion was made by Trustee Renier, seconded by Trustee Frederick, that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the vision, mission and purposes and array of awards of St. Cloud State University as listed in the Executive Summary. Motion carried.

5. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.28 Charter School Sponsorship (Second Reading)

Second reading of a proposed amendment which contains language changes to the Board's charter school sponsorship policy to bring it into compliance with statutory changes made during the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Trustee Van Houten said it may be a good idea for Trustees to have a discussion in the future pertaining to the Board's position on charter schools and if system institutions should continue to be sponsors or authorizers. Sponsorship involves some financial risk, he pointed out.

Trustee Dickson said institutions that are charter school authorizers need to be actively engaged in the management of the school and have representation on the board of directors.

A report on Charter School Sponsorship will be presented to the Committee in June.

Trustee Frederick made a motion, seconded by Trustee Renier, that the Board of Trustees approves the amendments to Policy 3.28 Charter School Sponsorship. Motion carried.

6. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.22 Course Syllabi (First Reading)

First reading of this amendment to Board Policy which draws a clear distinction between course syllabi and course outlines, and establishes the course outline as the document used to determine course equivalencies.

Over the past two years, several examinations of the course transfer process have pointed to course syllabi as presenting problems for students. Students wanting to transfer courses when equivalencies have not been previously established were often asked to produce course syllabi. This was occasionally a problem when a student had discarded or lost the course syllabus and the course instructor was unavailable or unwilling to provide the syllabus.

Andrew Spaeth, State Chair for Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA), and Travis Johnson, President of the Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA), both spoke in favor of the amended policy. They said use of the course outlines will be helpful to students who are interested in transferring credits to another institution.

Trustee Van Houten said students and student associations need to ensure that the course syllabi match the course outlines and what is being taught in the classes.

Don Larsson, president of the Inter Faculty Organization (IFO), also spoke in favor of the policy. He said there may be a few issues yet to work out, but the policy is a huge step forward.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 am

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder