

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 21, 2012**

**Present:** Chair Scott Thiss, Trustees Brett Anderson, Duane Benson, Cheryl Dickson, Jacob Englund, Clarence Hightower, Alfredo Oliveira, Dan McElroy, David Paskach, Thomas Renier, Christine Rice, Louise Sundin, James Van Houten, Michael Vekich and Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

**Absent:** Trustee Philip Krinkie

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Scott Thiss called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. He welcomed members of the Leadership Academy from South Central College to the meeting. He also acknowledged Dr. Douglas Knowlton, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, who joined the system in February.

**2. Chair's Report**

**a. Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting on January 18, 2012**

The minutes were approved as written.

**b. Chancellor Review Process**

Chair Thiss reviewed the timeline for the chancellor evaluation process. The board will meet with Chancellor Rosenstone for his evaluation on June 6.

**c. Development of 2013 System Work Plans and Committee Goals**

Chair Thiss reported that the current trustees' expertise will be utilized to develop committee goals for FY13 that align with the strategic framework. The goals will be in place at the start of July when six new members will be appointed to the board.

**d. Task Force/Study Session Regarding Board Committee Structure**

Chair Thiss announced that he appointed Trustee Michael Vekich to lead a task force with Trustees Dan McElroy and Christine Rice. The task force will evaluate the committee structure and present its recommendations at a study session in April.

**3. Chancellor's Report: *Steven Rosenstone***

Chancellor Steven Rosenstone provided an update on the implementation of the strategic framework.

**Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans**

Chancellor Rosenstone reported that conversations will occur throughout this semester at every campus in the system. Faculty are leading the conversations which focus on the question how do we graduate students who are stunningly creative, innovative and prepared with both fundamental competencies and the skills needed for the jobs of the future?

The campus conversations allow time for faculty to brainstorm and reflect on how to take programs that are already extraordinary and make them preeminent and also take programs that are good and make them extraordinary. Discussions will range from how a classroom should work to how to bring a classroom to the workplace, to how to increase collaboration among faculty throughout the system to create learning experiences that are extraordinary and might involve sharing materials. Also up for discussion are how to redesign technology to facilitate learning and how to develop regional strategies for delivering the kind of education needed for Minnesota. The chancellor expressed gratitude to the faculty for their leadership in the design of the conversations and the implementation taking place at the campuses.

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton had provided an update during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting on other implementations on serving students who have traditionally been underserved by higher education and what is being done to ensure their success within the system. Chancellor Rosenstone commented that a good discussion was had in the committee meeting on strategies to develop a metro plan to increase baccalaureate degrees.

**Be the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs**

Chancellor Rosenstone announced the official public launch of the workforce assessment initiative. The initiative is a region-by-region, sector-by-sector workforce needs assessment and is in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and local chambers across the state, and other private, public sector and non-profit organizations.

The workforce assessment initiative will engage employers in developing projections for how many workers and professionals, with what kinds of skills, are needed for what kinds of jobs. In April and May, more than 40 listening sessions with Minnesota employers throughout the state are planned. These sessions will help Minnesota to gain a better understanding of employers' current and future workforce needs.

Data gathered will be used by the colleges and universities to align their certificates and degrees, worker retraining and customized training programs with needs of Minnesota's businesses, industries and communities. The goal is to ensure that the right programs are in the right places to meet Minnesota's workforce needs going forward. Initial sessions include six industry sectors: healthcare, information technology, manufacturing; engineering, energy and transportation. Agriculture sector sessions will occur in June and July. Financial services and insurance and others sectors will occur in the fall.

Task forces are working on improving customized training. Chancellor Rosenstone recognized and thanked Presidents Kevin Kopischke and Larry Lundblad for their leadership. The idea is to move away from the notion of just customized training and the notion of comprehensive workforce solutions. All of the assets of the colleges and universities are being brought to the table in a way that is much more coordinated and aligned than ever before.

Focus also is on increasing the FastTRAC program in a pilot with the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Joyce Foundation. President Joyce Helens is working with Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Mary Rothchild to discover the best direction to grow FastTRAC to be available to more Minnesotans. The completion agenda is critical to meeting Minnesota's workforce needs to ensure that more students are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow in a timely fashion. Presidents Richard Hanson, Phillip Davis and Don Supalla are working with Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton and President Emeritus Larry Litecky to develop a set of initiatives to ensure that FastTRAC works well to turn out more students in a timely and successful fashion.

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that the pipeline issue is also being worked in collaboration with K-12 to ensure that students are college-ready and to ensure that a proper assessment is done in high school which aligns with the need to understand college readiness at the college level. A proper assessment will ensure students are academically ready. Ideally, the assessment will address students' workforce skills, passions and interests. Chancellor Rosenstone added that the initiatives all are on track and more information will be provided in later spring at subsequent board meetings.

**Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value / most affordable option**

Chancellor Rosenstone remarked that the initiative on the campus service cooperative is about to be supercharged. It is a terrific start with many projects underway with great participation from the colleges and universities across the system. It is an extraordinary opportunity to create one service, one business office, for several campuses. It is a collaborative effort led by Presidents Ron Anderson, Sue Collins, Richard Davenport, Robert Musgrove, John O'Brien, Tim Wynes and Ron Wood with Vice Chancellor Laura King, Vice Chancellor Darrel Huish, Associate Vice Chancellor Colin Dougherty and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Sheila Reger.

The master administrative contract will be leveraged to provide the expertise and help needed to complete the job. Chancellor Rosenstone remarked that the beauty of the cooperative is that it is not an assignment of the "top and down," it is a cooperatively-led effort amongst the system colleges, universities, and system office, saving funds which remain on the campuses and holding down tuition costs for the students.

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that he and Vice Chancellor King have begun a full assessment of the current system financial model. It involves everything on how the state support is allocated to how tuition is used, where the money goes to and what the rules are by which the funds are allocated. The simple question is whether the current model which has been used for the last decade is aligned with the strategic framework which the board recently adopted.

The entire Leadership Council will be engaged in the process and a diagnosis will be brought before the board for consideration and approval in later spring. Chancellor Rosenstone stated that the process of executive performance evaluation is being reviewed to be improved with the help of Presidents Richard Davenport, Richard Hanson, Jim Johnson and Tim Wynes, as well as the Leadership Council executive committee, Chief of Staff Nancy Joyer and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Sheila Reger.

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that the framework is on track and continues to move quickly and decisively. He noted that it is the presidents, cabinet, vice chancellors, directors and staff, working along with Chief of Staff Joyer, leading the coordination and implementation of the framework. Chancellor thanked the board for their ongoing counsel and support adding that there will be updates going forward.

The chancellor commented that at \$280 million, the bonding bill proposed by the House is low. However, it is just one step in the process. We will continue to work with the House, Senate and governor's office to make the case for investment in MnSCU at the level necessary to maintain our existing infrastructure and establish the facilities necessary to provide an extraordinary education for students and the workforce needed by Minnesota business and industry.

Chancellor Rosenstone noted the goals which were established at the last legislative session. Five performance goals were set for the system, with the details worked on with the Office of Higher Education last October. Chancellor Rosenstone stated that he is pleased to announce that four of the five goals have been met. The requirement was to meet three of the five performance goals in order to receive the one percent which otherwise would have been held back from the FY2013 allocation. Exceeding the three goal requirement and meeting four goals represents the tremendous work of the presidents, faculty and staff at all of the colleges and universities. The one percent was already budgeted in anticipation of completing those goals.

Lastly, Chancellor Rosenstone recognized and thanked Military Education Director Gina Sobania for her work and dedication to the veterans program. Director Sobania traveled to Kuwait with a team of eight civilians to provide a week of specialized training to Minnesota National Guard soldiers. The team met with over 1,000 soldiers who will return to Minnesota this spring. Director Sobania provided them with information on educational opportunities and online tools to ease their transition to civilian life.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

*All matters listed under Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. Any trustee may request that an item or items be removed from the Consent Agenda for independent consideration.*

- (1) Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical Transportation Building Addition Approval**
- (2) Refunding of Revenue Bonds Series A and B and Reauthorization of Guarantee for St. Cloud State University Projects**
- (3) Revenue Fund Reallocation – Alexandria Technical and Community College**
- (4) Microsoft Campus Agreement Contract Approval**

*Trustee Thomas Renier moved that the Board of Trustees approves the Consent Agenda. Trustee Michael Vekich seconded and the motion carried.*

## 5. Board Policy Decisions

There were no Board Policy Decisions on March 21, 2012.

## 6. Board Standing Committee Reports

### a. Human Resources Committee: *Clarence Hightower, Chair*

- (1) Closed Session on Bargaining Pursuant to Minnesota Statute §13D.03 (2011)  
Committee Chair Clarence Hightower reported that the committee met in a closed session on bargaining on the morning of March 21, 2012.
- (2) Human Resources Update  
Committee Chair Clarence Hightower reported that the committee heard an update on the Human Resources Division.
- (3) Update on Presidential Searches  
Committee Chair Hightower reported that committee heard an update on presidential searches underway at Minnesota State Community and Technical College and Winona State University. The chancellor will recommend finalists at the May meeting.

### b. Finance and Facilities Committee: *Dan McElroy, Chair*

- (1) Finance and Facilities Update  
Committee Chair Dan McElroy reported that he committee heard an update on the work of the Finance and Facilities Division.
- (2) FY2014-2019 Capital Budget Guidelines  
Trustee McElroy reported that the committee reviewed a first reading on the FY 2014-2019 Capital Budget Guidelines. The guidelines will be presented for action in April.

### c. Advancement Committee: **Cheryl Dickson, Chair**

- (1) Report on Connecting with Campus Initiative  
Committee Chair Cheryl Dickson reported that the committee heard an update on the Connecting with Campuses Initiative.
- (2) First Impressions of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Advancement  
Committee Chair Dickson reported that the committee heard a report from Vice Chancellor Michael Dougherty on the first impressions of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Advancement.
- (3) Draft New Member Orientation Plan: The Big Picture  
Committee Chair Dickson reported that the committee reviewed and discussed a draft New Member Orientation Plan: The Big Picture. Several members offered suggestions that will be included in the orientation sessions.

**d. Academic and Student Affairs Committee: Christine Rice, Chair**

(1) Academic and Student Affairs Update

Committee Chair Christine Rice reported that the committee welcomed Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton, who gave an update on the Academic and Student Affairs projects.

(2) Proposed New Policy 3.39 – Transfer Rights and Responsibilities (First Reading)

Committee Chair Rice reported that the committee reviewed a Proposed New Policy 3.39 – Transfer Rights and Responsibilities. This will be second reading for action at the next meeting.

(3) Academic and Student Affairs Committee Goal

Committee Chair Rice reported that the committee heard a report on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Goal. The suggested goal is creating access to success pathways for MnSCU Students, which supports the strategic framework's goal of ensuring access to an extraordinary education.

**7. Joint Council of Student Associations**

a. Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA)

b. Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA)

There were no reports from the statewide student associations.

**8. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Bargaining Units**

a. Inter Faculty Organization

There was no report from the Inter Faculty Organization.

b. Administrative and Service Faculty

There was no report from the Administrative and Service Faculty.

c. Minnesota State College Faculty

There was no report from the Minnesota State College Faculty association.

d. Minnesota Association of Professional Employees

Mr. Greg Mellas, representative, addressed the Board of Trustees.

e. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

There was no report from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

**9. Trustees' Reports**

Trustee Sundin reported that she and Trustees Alfredo Oliveira and Christine Rice attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship event. Trustee Rice reported that she visited Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical in Winona.

Chair Thiss reported that he met with members of the Higher Learning Commission during their visit to Winona State University for the university's ten year accreditation. He also made campus visits to Lake Superior College and Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and Wadena. Trustee Brett Anderson reported that he met with the MSUSA board of directors. He also reported that he visited the Ridgewater College campuses in Hutchinson and Willmar and Minnesota West in Jackson. Trustee Jacob Englund reported that he visited Normandale Community College.

**10. Other Business**

Chair Thiss announced that the Executive Committee will meet on April 4, and the Board of Trustees meetings are on April 17-18. Also, the Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence in Teaching will be over the lunch period on April 18.

**11. Adjournment**

Chair Thiss adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.

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Ingeborg K. Chapin  
Secretary to the Board