

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

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**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present:** Chair Duane Benson; Trustees Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Cheryl Dickson, Dawn Erlandson, Maria Peluso and Louise Sundin.

**Committee Members Absent:** Alexander Cirillo

**Other Board Members Present:** Trustees Ann Anaya, Brett Anderson, Clarence Hightower, Philip Krinkie, Alfredo Oliveira, David Paskach, Tom Renier and Michael Vekich.

**Leadership Council Representatives Present:** Chancellor Steven Rosenstone and Vice Chancellor Douglas Knowlton.

**Leadership Council Representatives Absent:** Presidents Earl Potter and Cecilia Cervantes.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on October 17, 2012 at Wells Fargo Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Paul. Chair Benson called the meeting to order at 9:48 am.

**1. Minutes of June 19, 2012**

*The minutes from June 19, 2012 Academic and Student Affairs Committee were approved as written.*

**2. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (First Reading)**

This proposed amendment clarifies that certain aspects of each college and university Academic Standing Policy may differ from the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Federal financial aid regulations require that an institution's Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy be as strict as, or stricter than its policy on academic standing. The Board took action in 2006 to require that the grade point average requirements and percentage of completion requirements be the same in each institution's policies. This has led to some questions about whether other aspects of the policies must be the same or may differ.

The proposed amendment provides clarification by establishing that other elements of these policies may vary. An example would be recognition of academic amnesty, Vice Chancellor Knowlton said.

Trustee Dickson said she was concerned that the amendment indicated that elements may vary, but does not specify how they would vary. The policy amendment does not offer clear direction, she said.

Chancellor Rosenstone said the amendment may be clearer if it states elements may vary according to college or university policy.

Trustee Dickson said adding that language would be helpful.

Associate Vice Chancellor Mike López said policies do differ from institution to institution so the chancellor's suggestion clarifies the intent of the policy. The suggested change will be incorporated into the amendment for the second reading.

Policies and policy revisions are first reviewed and discussed by members of a policy committee, Vice Chancellor Knowlton said. The review process allows for input from presidents, campus leadership and student leaders. The policies are then brought to the Committee for a first reading, allowing for input by Trustees. In a later meeting, the policy or policy revisions are brought before the committee for a second reading and approval before going before the full Board for final approval.

- In other business, Chair Benson told trustees that they have received a report on degree credit caps that will be sent to the Legislature. If any trustee has questions about the report, he or she should contact Vice Chancellor Knowlton.
- As the new chair of the committee, Chair Benson said he wants the committee's focus to be sharp. There may be more joint committee meetings since academic affairs are often closely tied to the workings of other committees, such as finance and diversity.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 am  
Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Takash, Recorder