

# MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDY SESSION JUNE 20, 2012 McCORMICK ROOM 30 7TH STREET EAST ST. PAUL, MN

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

Absent: Trustees David Paskach and Tom Renier

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### **Study Session: A Vision for Redesigning Grades 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Minnesota**

Chair Scott Thiss convened the study session at 2:00 p.m. He welcomed Brenda Cassellius, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education and Larry Pogemiller, director, Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Chancellor Steven Rosenstone commented that for the last year and a half the board has discussed topics on college preparedness and remedial education. Models such as the Bridges Career Academies at Central Lakes College, the Irondale High School Early College Program with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (where up to 70 percent of the graduating seniors also receive associate degrees), and the Chisago-Lakes High School program with Lake Superior College are examples of successful collaborations. It is time to be more systematic, bold and ambitious by linking pre-K 12, higher education and workforce issues in Minnesota. Chancellor Rosenstone stated that he has been meeting on this issue with Commissioner Cassellius and Director Pogemiller over the last six to seven months. This study session will introduce a set of objectives and ideas with time for counsel from the board.

Commissioner Cassellius explained that the focus is to enact policies and align Minnesota's education systems. The need for this arose because 70 percent of all jobs will require some kind of post-secondary education. The governor has a core value that if we develop a plan, it will be the people's plan and it will get bipartisan support. Commissioner Cassellius and Director Pogemiller reviewed a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Post-secondary Success for All: Increasing Awareness, Aspiration, Opportunity and Attainment." The objectives are:

1. Better Outcomes for Minnesota
2. Better Alignment of High School and Post-secondary education
3. Better Alignment with the Workforce Needs of Minnesota
4. Increased Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness

The outcomes are to:

- Align high school assessment system with measures of readiness and post-secondary education.
- Provide targeted support while in high school if students are not on track to be ready for post-secondary education.
- Increase opportunities for students to earn post-secondary credits earlier (expand PSEO to 10th grade) (academic excellence and equity).
- Better understand students' skills, aptitudes and passions and align those to careers and post-secondary education.

Chancellor Rosenstone observed that Minnesota State Colleges and Universities provide 82% of all the post-secondary enrollment options in Minnesota. Director Pogemiller commented that with Chancellor Rosenstone and Commissioner Cassellius there is a commitment and a passion to avoid gaps in learning and accelerate the educational journey. He continued that many of the ideas and aspirations are already happening but this plan attempts to organize and institutionalize the way the world is becoming so that we spend the resources we have to get better results. Commissioner Cassellius stated that the governor asked her to be bold but not reckless. We can move and if we get good agreement among our unions we can move quickly. There is also the matter of resources.

Chancellor Rosenstone explained that this presentation has been shown to various groups around the state for the past several months. Everyone around the table gets it. Commissioner Cassellius added that once this framework is completed, it will result in a policy recommendation to the governor that can be introduced to the legislature next session.

Responding to a question, Director Pogemiller recalled attending two workforce assessment meetings; one rural and one metro and he was stunned at the consistency of the comments from small business owners who all agreed that they needed more people with liberal arts skills. He heard the same when he chaired the Senate K-12 Committee.

Commissioner Cassellius added that the movement is toward a system of diplomas based on standard core-competencies. Why does a course have to be 185 days, when it can be learned by some in 65 days? As we think about the future of education over the next 25 years, high school will look very different than it does today. She continued that we are shifting to more of a lifelong learner model where we create opportunities for people to have adaptable skills.

Trustee Louise Sundin observed that the entire report is about high school but is missing reference to giving young people exposure to the kinds of jobs that are out there. She also suggested adding information about SkillsUSA and other campus clubs that give students a sense of belonging.

Trustee Clarence Hightower asked if there are barriers within the Board of Trustees policy domain that can help this move forward. Chancellor Rosenstone replied that he has had conversations with faculty leadership to help identify things we are not yet doing at a common

level across the system. There also is a financial cost.

Chancellor Rosenstone said that he is grateful for Commissioner Cassellius and Director Pogemiller's partnership. He added that this is not about attracting people into one path for another; it is about a whole package of skills that students will need throughout their lives and over the course of their careers. This redesign is not debasing the standards that already exist. There are people who believe that if you can read at an 8th grade level, that you can enter technical education but studies have shown that the 13th grade level reading is needed. There is urgency around our work and everybody wins if we can figure this out.

Chair Thiss thanked Commissioner Cassellius and Director Pogemiller for their presentation. The study session concluded at 3:22 p.m.