

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

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

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Absent:** Cheryl Dickson and Alfredo Oliveira.

**Other Board Members Present:** Trustees Alexander Cirillo, Clarence Hightower, David Paskach, Thomas Renier and Elise Ristau.

**Leadership Council Representatives Present:** Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Interim Vice Chancellor John O'Brien, Presidents Sue Collins and Earl Potter.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on November 20, 2013 at Wells Fargo Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Paul. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher called the session to order at 1:05 pm.

**1. Minutes of October 23, 2013**

*Trustee Benson moved that the minutes from the October 23, 2013 Academic and Student Affairs Committee be approved as written. Motion carried.*

**2. Pine Technical College – Change in Institution Type and Change in Name – First Reading**

**Presenters:**

John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs  
Robert Musgrove, President, Pine Technical College

This was the first reading of Pine Technical College's request for a mission change to become a comprehensive technical and community college. The college also is requesting a change in name to Pine Technical and Community College.

If the Board of Trustees approves the mission change, students at Pine Technical College would be able to complete an Associate in Arts (AA) degree.

Interim Vice Chancellor John O'Brien said surveys of regional high school students indicate substantial interest in career paths that require a four-year degree. Input from technical program advisory committees and system workforce listening sessions indicated strong support for a mission change to increase opportunities for students and employees in the region.

The Pine Technical College service area remains well below state averages in bachelor's degree attainment and that deficit ultimately results in lower per-capitol

incomes, greater levels of poverty and higher rates of unemployment than the rest of Minnesota and Wisconsin, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. A mission change would ensure more people who seek a postsecondary education, who want to update their skills or who need to prepare for new careers would have access to higher education.

The system workforce assessment survey findings highlight a need for "soft skills," including communication, interpersonal, critical thinking and analytical skills. A mission change would allow Pine Technical College faculty to teach more liberal arts and transfer courses to enhance the soft skills sets which are deemed essential for the competitiveness and economic health of the region.

Pine Technical College has had substantial enrollment growth, resulting in a much-improved fiscal picture and a growing faculty and staff, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Student full-year equivalents (FYE) at the college have increased from 410 in 2006 to 667 in 2013, an increase of 63 percent. The increase in headcount is even more substantial, with unduplicated credit hour headcount rising from 963 to 1865, a growth of over 94% over the same time period.

This growth has generated tuition revenue and has improved the college's share of the state appropriation as driven by the system allocation formula. The college projects continued 3 percent per year enrollment growth in FYEs and headcount.

With regard to facilities, the college has demonstrated that there is substantial room for growth to accommodate the classroom-based courses taught in the AA degree. The college's new science laboratory provides a modern facility for teaching its lower-division science course inventory and can accommodate additional course sections if needed.

In the past several years, Pine Technical College has attempted to partner in good faith with other colleges to offer the AA degree on campus, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. However, these attempts have proven to be largely unworkable for students.

The mission change will allow undecided students to enter Pine Technical College with a declared AA major and be eligible for financial aid. This means they can maintain eligibility for financial aid while exploring degree and career options, including those in technical areas.

Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said Pine Technical College's request for a mission change comes with significant stakeholder support, including the college student senate, the college's academic affairs and standards council, faculty-shared governance, the college's leadership team and college foundation. In addition, the college consulted with civic clubs, school boards, city council and county commissions, regional legislative delegation and all of its program advisory committees and received support for the proposal.

Pine Technical College's history, heritage and culture are centered on technical education and will continue to be, even if the mission is changed, President Musgrove

said. This past fall they added seven new technical programs and 4 new IT certifications. This speaks to the fact that technical education is deeply valued at the college, he said.

Chair Margaret Anderson Kelliher said the proposal is strong and she has a high degree of confidence that students will be better served with the mission change.

Trustee Benson said recent mission changes at two other technical colleges stirred some controversy among board members who feared technical education in the system would be diminished. It turns out that those concerns were unfounded, he said, adding he supports this mission change since it is the best thing for students.

The second reading of the proposal will be in January.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Takash, Recorder