MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MAY 21, 2014

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

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

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

Leadership Council Representatives Present: *Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Senior Vice Chancellor John O'Brien.*

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on May 21, 2014 at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher called the session to order at 11:32 am.

1. **Minutes of the Joint Meeting: Academic and Student Affairs and Diversity and Equity Committee of March 19, 2014**

   Trustee Dickson moved and Trustee Cirillo seconded that the minutes from the March 19, 2014 Joint meeting of Academic and Student Affairs and Diversity and Equity Committees be approved as written. Motion carried.

2. **Minutes of the April 23, 2014 Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

   Trustee Dickson moved and Trustee Benson seconded that the minutes from the March 19, 2014 Academic and Student Affairs Committees be approved as written. Motion carried.

3. **Riverland Community College – Approval of College Mission Statement**

   Presenter:
   Adenuga Atewologun, President, Riverland Community College
   John O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor

   Riverland Community College presented a new mission statement for committee approval. Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said the college's new mission and vision fully meet the criteria identified in Board Policy.

Calling Riverland Community College's new strategic vision a blueprint for excellence, President Atewologun said it was the culmination of six months of intense work and consultations with stakeholders. Included in the discussions were 250 community and business representatives, 1,000 students, 300 employees, plus the voices of many people as expressed through reports, including *Higher Education Needs Assessment Study of the South I-35 Corridor-Minnesota* and *Charting the Future for a Prosperous Minnesota*. The level of involvement in and commitment to the development of this strategic plan exemplifies the strong feeling of ownership and pride the people of the region have for the college, he said.

President Atewologun introduced a large delegation present of campus people who participated in the effort or who exemplify the extraordinary work happening at the college. At the meeting were: Students Richelle Resendez and Everado Sierra; Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Mary Davenport; Dean of Institutional Advancement Steve Bowron; Chief Financial Officer Brad Doss; Communications, Media Relations and Marketing Executive Director James Douglass; Executive Administrative Assistant to the President Marijo Alexander; Director of Technology Dan Harber; Board of Trustees Educators of the Year Alan Erdahl and Sandy Sellner-Wee; Multicultural advisor Edel Fernandez; and Study Skills tutor Attina Earl.

The new Riverland Community College mission and vision statements are succinct and inspirational, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

The college's proposed mission statement is: "Riverland Community College inspires personal success through education."

The proposed vision statement: "Achieve 'Best in Class' status in programs through excellence in teaching, scholarship and service."

Trustee Sundin asked President Atewologun if he has a community advisory committee.

Although he meets regularly with business representatives on the college's Foundation Board, President Atewologun said he has not yet formed an advisory committee, but expects he will soon. He said he wanted to first lead the effort to define the college's strategic framework and vision before forming an advisory group.

Trustee Sundin encouraged him to include employee representatives, as well as company leaders, in the group.

Trustee Benson said he was pleased to see the college's new mission and vision statements emphasize greater focus on the customer and less on the college – or the "supplier."

Trustee Sundin said while she likes the crispness of the mission statement, it seems to be heavily focused on the "individual." There is no mention of the college "giving back" to community and state, she noted.

Chair Anderson Kelliher said while the mission statement stresses personal success, it is complemented by the vision statement which emphasizes excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. The Board needs to respect the community's process and culture in the development of the college's strategic vision, she added.

Trustee Dickson praised President Atewologun for his work in the development of this plan. She said it is admirable that he spent his first year as president working with and listening to the large number of college stakeholders, resulting in this outcome.

Trustee Benson moved and Trustee Dickson seconded the following motion: Upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the mission of Riverland Community College. Motion carried.

4. Annual Report on Program Inventory

Presenters:
John O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor
Lynda Milne, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Ron Dreyer, System Director for Academic Programs

Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien started the presentation by recognizing System Director Ron Dreyer, who is retiring in July after 35 years with the Technical College and MnSCU systems. During his tenure at MnSCU, Ron oversaw the creation of the two systems used to manage the academic program inventory, PRINSYS and Program Navigator.

Board Policy requires that the chancellor maintain the academic program inventory and report annually to the Board of Trustees on the status of the inventory. This year's report provided updated details on program statistics, including how the array of programs has changed. Also included was information on current collaborative efforts for partnering across institutions and ways in which systemwide program goals will be shaped in alignment with Charting the Future.

The process by which programs are approved begins with campus staff considering the need for and impact of a proposed program on related programs within the campus' service area. This may require a labor market needs analysis. Proposed programs are reviewed by campus teams which may include faculty, the department chair, dean, academic standards committee, chief academic officer and the president.

A notice of intent announcing the proposed program is published online for statewide comment. The system's academic programs staff will approve or deny the program application after reviewing it for completeness, policy compliance and ensuring any issues that have arisen during the comment period have been resolved. Approved programs are added to the program inventory.

The number of academic programs offered at system colleges and universities in fiscal year 2014 was 3,744, substantially the same since 2012. There was a moderate decline in program count at two-year colleges in 2009-2012, probably caused by the recession and declining financial support for higher education, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

In fiscal year 2014, there were 133 new programs approved, 91 at colleges and 42 at universities. On average, 93 new programs were approved annually from fiscal years 2006 to 2014. Student interest and employer demand are the main reasons for new program creation.

One hundred thirteen programs closed, 90 at colleges and 23 at colleges, during fiscal year 2014. On average, there were 132 closures annually. The primary reason for closures is low student enrollment levels. Occasionally budget constraints cause program closure.

The system is committed to preventing unnecessary program duplication, but this goal must be balanced with the system's obligation to provide access to educational opportunities across the state, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Currently, approximately 55 percent of the system's programs are offered at only one college or university.

State legislation passed in 2007 required Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees to be 60 credits and baccalaureate degrees to be 120 credits, unless a waiver has been granted. The legislation was prompted by student concerns about tuition rate increases and the fact that programs with similar outcomes varied in credit length.

Seven years ago, there were over 1,200 programs over the 60 and 120 credit limit. Now, only a handful of associate and baccalaureate degrees are not at the 60 or 120 credit limit.

Baccalaureate degrees that have been granted credit waivers include some teacher education programs (Inclusive Education, Music Education, and Physical Science Education) and several engineering programs (Composite Materials, Electrical Engineering and Civil Engineering). Additional credits often are needed in these programs because of professional accreditation or state licensing requirements.

Associate degree programs that have been granted waivers include some in law enforcement, music, nursing, mechatronics, respiratory therapy, landscape horticulture and non-destructive testing. Again, professional accreditation and licensing requirements often result in a need for more credits.

While academic program staff approve new program, closure, suspension and a few other applications, campus staff now make some program modifications using an online inventory approval system called Program Navigator. Staff at the campus level can approve program attributes including delivery mode, program description emphasis additions and program reinstatements.

Students have access to the program inventory through the MnSCU website and the MnSCU Viewbook (formerly Go Places and GoMN). System office and campus staff have access to the program inventory using a custom dashboard in the Program Navigator system.

The chancellor asked each president in 2012 to ensure that every single academic program has defined its learning outcome goals and this has been done. Many faculty have begun to use these learning assessments as a measure of program quality.

Charting the Future will have an influence on the program inventory. One of the report's recommendations focuses on the planning and management of programs in light of the state's and community workforce needs and student interests. Work has already begun with the Workforce Development Team on the development of tools to help in this implementation, including **Wanted Analytics**, a powerful job opening search engine; **Employment Modeling Specialists International (EMSI),** which has more than 90 data sources configured for insight on occupational wages, industry trends and employment growth or decline and concentration; and **LMIwise** which will offer program planners higher education supply data, as well as wages and occupation employment levels, projections and demand.

There is growing interest among colleges and universities in partnering on the development and offering of academic programs, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Innovative and cooperative partnership across the state is happening with programs in health information technology, Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Education (MANE), early childhood and professional science master's. New broad field articulation agreements in engineering and health sciences mean students are assured of a core curriculum that prepares them well and fully transfers to any of the system's bachelor's programs in those areas.

Trustee Sundin said while she appreciated the simplicity of the program inventory report, the connections between the closing and opening of programs still could be clearer.

She also noted that it is important for the system to educate students for the marketplace with all the nuances that employers expect. For example, a manufacturing company may be looking to hire engineering graduates with skills earned in associate degrees, not baccalaureates.

Trustee Renier asked if the cost of equipment and technology poses a problem with the startup of some new programs.

High equipment and technology costs can be a deterrent to the startup of some new programs, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Better collaboration between colleges and universities on academic programming could work to make program startup more economically feasible, he added.

Trustee Erlandson asked how students find out about unique programs, such as the instrument repair program at MSC-Southeast Technical.

Effective marketing is a challenge, Senior Vice Chancellor O'Brien said, especially since non-profit schools tend to have big budgets for advertising. Enhanced collaboration among colleges and universities may lead to more effective marketing strategies, he said.

Trustee Krinkie asked how program closures affect students. Are they allowed to transfer to a similar program at another institution?

The Higher Learning Commission requires colleges and universities to allow students enrolled in a program that is closed to finish their program, System Director Dreyer said. A college or university can also make other mutually-agreed upon arrangements with students – for example, allowing students to complete the program on a neighboring campus.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder