

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Board of Trustees Minutes
May 21, 2014

Present: Chair Clarence Hightower, Trustees Ann Anaya, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Alexander Cirillo, Cheryl Dickson, Dawn Erlandson, Duane Benson, Philip Krinkie, Alfredo Oliveira, David Paskach, Thomas Renier, Elise Ristau, Louise Sundin, Michael Vekich, and Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

Absent: Maria Peluso

1. Call to Order

Chair Clarence Hightower called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and announced that a quorum was present.

2. Chair's Report: *Clarence Hightower*

(1) Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, April 23, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

(2) Chancellor's Evaluation Timeline

Chair Hightower announced that the Performance Review Committee will meet in closed session on June 10 with the chancellor to discuss progress on meeting performance goals. The committee members are Chair Hightower and Trustees Ann Anaya, Alex Cirillo, and Tom Renier.

On June 16, the Chancellor Performance Review Committee will provide a written evaluation to Chancellor Rosenstone. On June 17, the board will meet in closed session with Chancellor Rosenstone on the results of the Chancellor's performance evaluation. Chair Hightower will provide a summary of Chancellor Rosenstone's evaluation during the board meeting on June 18.

(3) Proposed FY2015-2016 Meeting Calendar (First Reading)

Chair Hightower reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the proposed FY2015 and FY2016 meeting calendar on May 7. The meeting calendar will be presented for a second reading and approval on June 18.

Chancellor's Report: *Steven Rosenstone*

Chancellor Steven Rosenstone began by congratulating Chair Hightower, who received the President's Award during Southwest Minnesota State University's commencement on May 10. The President's Award is bestowed upon "a person who has contributed meritorious service to the university and to higher education in Southwest Minnesota."

Commencements

Chancellor Rosenstone thanked the trustees for their participation in this spring's 53 commencements across Minnesota.

This year, colleges and universities awarded 22,000 certificates, degrees, and diplomas. Chancellor Rosenstone commented that participation by the trustees means a great deal to the graduates, their families, and the campuses.

Charting the Future Update

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that the four implementation teams are up and running. Last month, Senior Vice Chancellor John O'Brien, Vice Chancellor Laura King, and Jaime Simonsen, project leader of *Charting the Future*, traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and representatives from eleven other states participating in the Gates Foundation State Systems Transformation initiative.

Legislative Update

Chancellor Rosenstone expressed his sincere appreciation for the legislature's support of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The legislature approved a strong bonding bill, funding \$159.8 million in college and university projects, including \$42.5 million in the Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR). The investment made in HEAPR will impact our 430,000 students, providing environments conducive to learning. The legislature also approved a supplemental budget bill that includes \$17 million in ongoing base funds to help fund faculty compensation.

Chancellor Rosenstone thanked the members of the House and Senate for their strong support of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities: the Higher Education chairs, Representative Gene Pelowski and Senator Terri Bonoff; and minority leaders Representative Bud Nornes and Senator Jeremy Miller, who worked hard on our behalf to provide the \$17 million for faculty compensation; the Capital Investment chairs, Representative Alice Hausman and Senator LeRoy Stumpf; legislative leaders and the chairs of the Ways and Means and Finance committees; Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, Senate Minority Leader David Hann, Senator Richard Cohen, Speaker Paul Thissen, House Majority Leader Erin Murphy, House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, and Representative Lyndon Carlson; and Governor Mark Dayton, supporter and friend of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities from the start.

Chancellor Rosenstone thanked the trustees, presidents, students, faculty, staff, and the government relations team, Melissa Fahning, Bernie Omann, and Jerry Janezich. Chancellor Rosenstone remarked how fortunate he is to work with talented and insightful people. He stated that Jerry Janezich is one of those individuals, with over thirty years of service for the public good as a county commissioner, Minnesota State Representative, Minnesota State Senator, and as a trusted advocate for MnSCU for twelve years. Chancellor Rosenstone thanked Mr. Janezich for his years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

Contract Negotiations

Chancellor Rosenstone stated that as a result of the supplemental appropriation, \$17 million is available to fund base increases in faculty salaries. Three faculty units are back at the bargaining table. If tentative agreements are reached and the unions are successful in getting the tentative agreements ratified over the next few weeks, the agreements will be brought to the trustees for their consideration and approval at the June meeting.

Next Biennial Budget

Consultation is underway on the FY2016-2017 biennial legislative request. The presidents have convened conversations on their campuses with students, faculty, and staff for several months. Chancellor Rosenstone has been consulting with statewide bargaining units and student associations. Chancellor Rosenstone, the presidents, and cabinet members will begin discussions this summer and consultation with students, faculty, and staff will continue throughout the summer and into the fall. Chancellor Rosenstone anticipates that the first reading of the FY2016-FY2017 legislative request will be heard at the October meeting.

Affordability- Scholarships

Chancellor Rosenstone commented that the Finance and Facilities Committee heard from Vice Chancellor King about our ongoing commitment to ensuring that we are providing the state's most affordable, highest value education.

Chancellor Rosenstone recalled that two months ago he reported that the Charles and Ellora Alliss Educational Foundation awarded the universities \$668,000 for need-based scholarships. Chancellor Rosenstone provided an update on the two-year, \$20 million Access to Excellence scholarship campaign. As of March 31, 2014, 38% through the two-year campaign, the system has raised \$12.5 million – fully 63% of our campaign goal.

Otto Bremer Foundation

Chancellor Rosenstone announced that the Otto Bremer Foundation will make an extraordinarily generous two-year, \$4 million gift to fund what they are calling the “Finish Line Scholarship Program.”

- The Foundation will invite 20 MnSCU colleges located in communities with a Bremer Bank to each submit a proposal for up to \$200,000 in scholarships for next year.
- Additional funds (up to another \$200,000) will be available for a second year – depending on the results achieved in year one.
- Eligible students are those with demonstrated financial need.
- The focus is on improving persistence and on-time completion.
- Proposals will be evaluated on their potential to advance persistence and completion.
- At least 80% of the budget must be designated for scholarships, but some funds (up to 20% of the program budget) may also create or expand non-financial student support to scholarship recipients, such as financial and career coaching, academic advising, tutoring, and/or mentoring.
- The “Finish Line Scholarship Program” is creative and flexible. Each college will develop the proposal that best suits its unique students and circumstances.

Chancellor Rosenstone noted that the commitment from the Otto Bremer Foundation represents the single largest scholarship gift ever received by our colleges. Otto Bremer Foundation leaders understand the struggles students face with modest financial means. Otto Bremer came to Minnesota as an immigrant in 1886 with limited English, believing that people can survive and flourish if they have help at critical times. He created a foundation that over the years has contributed over \$447 million to the communities it serves.

Chancellor Rosenstone introduced Otto Bremer Foundation Trustee Charlotte Johnson and Foundation Executive Director Randi Roth. Chancellor Rosenstone emphasized that the \$4 million gift by the Otto Bremer Foundation is historic. It will provide a monumental impact in serving students with financial need to ensure their success.

Trustee Johnson stated that she and Executive Director Roth were pleased to attend the meeting. She expressed their excitement for the launch of the “Finish Line Scholarship Program” in partnership with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The program was developed through a series of conversations between the Otto Bremer Foundation and Chancellor Rosenstone. The program fit the Foundation’s mission to provide opportunities for all to participate fully in their communities.

4. Consent Agenda

(1) Riverland Community College-Approval of College Mission Statement

Trustee Margaret Anderson Kelliher moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

5. Board Policy Decisions

There were no board policy decisions.

6. Board Standing Committee Reports

a. Human Resources Committee

Thomas Renier, Chair

(1) Appointment of President of Normandale Community College

Trustee Thomas Renier moved that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, appoint Joyce Ester as president of Normandale Community College effective August 2, 2014, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorized the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and the chair of the Human Resources Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MnSCU Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Chair Hightower called the question and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Audit Committee

Ann Anaya, Chair

(1) Review Results of the Internal Control and Compliance Audit of Minnesota State University Moorhead

Committee Chair Ann Anaya reported that the committee reviewed the results of the Internal Control and Compliance Audit of Minnesota State University Moorhead.

(2) Review Results of Financial Aid Audits

Committee Chair Anaya reported that the committee reviewed the results of the financial aid audits.

- (3) Review Results of Audit Risk Assessment
Committee Chair Anaya reported that the committee reviewed the results of the audit risk assessment.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee

Michael Vekich, Chair

- (1) FY 2015 Operating Budget (First Reading)
Committee Chair Michael Vekich reported that the committee heard a first reading of the FY 2015 Operating Budget. This will be presented for a second reading and approval on June 18.
- (2) Legislative Results Including 2014-2019 Capital Budget
Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee heard a presentation on the legislative results including the 2014-2019 Capital Budget.

d. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Chair

- (1) Annual Report on Program Inventory
Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher reported that the committee heard a presentation on the annual report on program inventory.

8. Trustees Reports

Chair Hightower congratulated Trustee Alfredo Oliveira, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Cloud State University. Chair Hightower also welcomed Trustee Oliveira's family who were visiting from Brazil.

Trustee Anderson Kelliher highlighted Anoka-Ramsey Community College student Ms. Bukola Oriola. Ms. Oriola is an award winning journalist who started her journalism career in 2000 in her home country, Nigeria. She became a victim of human trafficking as a result of fraud. She was isolated for two years, endured all forms of torture, hunger, physical, psychological and emotional abuse. She was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. In 2009, she wrote a memoir, "Imprisoned: The Travails of a Trafficked Victim."

Ms. Oriola joined Anoka Ramsey Community College to pursue an associate's degree in Liberal Arts, and is currently working on her transfer to Bethel University for Organizational Leadership. Her current career focus was informed by a non-profit organization that she founded in August 2013, The Enitan Story, to advocate for victims and empower survivors of human trafficking. Trustee Anderson Kelliher thanked Ms. Oriola for sharing her story.

Trustees Cirillo, Dickson, Erlandson, Oliveira, Paskach, and Sundin reported their participation at the spring commencements.

9. Joint Council of Student Associations

a. Minnesota State University Student Association

Alexandra Griffin, state chair, addressed the Board of Trustees. She introduced state chair-elect, Kari Cooper, a student at Bemidji State University.

10. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Bargaining Units

a. Inter Faculty Organization

Nancy Black, president, addressed the Board of Trustees.

b. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

June Clark, president, AFSCME MnSCU Policy Committee, addressed the Board of Trustees.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

Chair Hightower announced that the Performance Evaluation Committee will meet in a closed session on June 10, 2014. The Board of Trustees meetings are on June 17-18, 2014. Chair Hightower adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Ingeborg K. Chapin, Secretary to the Board