

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 28, 2015**

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*Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present:* Chair Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Trustees John Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Maleah Otterson, Elise Ristau and Louise Sundin.

*Other Board Members Present:* Trustees Duane Benson, Kelly Charpentier-Berg, Robert Hoffman, Thomas Renier, Michael Vekich and Erma Vizenor.

*Leadership Council Representatives Present:* Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Senior 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 January 28, 2015 at Wells Fargo Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, McCormick 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 1:20 pm.

**1. Minutes of the October 22, 2014 and November 19, 2014 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meetings**

Trustee Cowles moved and Trustee Ristau seconded that the minutes from the Oct. 22, 2014 and Nov. 19, 2014 meetings be approved as written. Motion carried.

**2. Transfer Degree Pathways for Baccalaureate Completion**

**Presenters:**

John O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Richard Hanson, President, Bemidji State University  
Arlene Cuthrell, Student, Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Jessie Bolin, MSUSA representative

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature required the Board of Trustees to report on an implementation plan for multi-campus articulation agreements that lead to baccalaureate degree completion. The law assigned the task of developing the plan to a Charting the Future implementation team.

President Richard Hanson is the convener of the Academic Planning and Collaboration Team, which began meeting in October 2014. To help with the drafting of the Transfer Degree Pathways Plan, team members reviewed system transfer data; conducted literature reviews on related transfer issues; researched other states with multi-campus articulation and transfer degrees; and invited subject experts to join in their discussions.

While the Academic Planning and Collaboration Team is expected to go on to identify additional ways to improve transfer, the Transfer Degree Pathways Plan focuses solely on the legislative mandate pertaining to system college students who transfer to a system university with an associate's degree. It does not include students transferring with AAS degrees, since

that degree is not designed for transfer, or those who transfer to system universities from outside the system.

In 2013, students who transferred from the system's two-year colleges to state universities represented about 1/3 of all MnSCU students who transfer. Within that one-third "slice" of transfer, about 7,000 students transfer from colleges to universities each year. Currently about one-quarter of that number complete an associate degree before transferring.

Student surveys show most of those students don't report problems with transfer, President Hanson said.

Students are the primary focus of the Transfer Degree Pathways Plan and quality education is at the core, President Hanson said. Other agreed upon principles and goals of the plan include:

- Degree pathways will be clear;
- Students can complete degrees in a minimum timeframe;
- Transfer students who need admission requirements will be given the same opportunity and consideration as direct-entry students of junior standing;
- All universities and colleges will participate in the plan if they offer associate degrees for transfer or baccalaureate degrees.

A major component of the plan is the creation of program articulation committees (PACs), which will be discipline-specific and have full autonomy to achieve goals, President Hanson said. They will be co-chaired by college and university faculty, with an equal number of representatives from each. Members of the committees will include campus members who regularly work with transfer students, such as transfer specialists and registrars. Also on the committees will be advisors/counselors, students and the chief academic officer or dean in the discipline.

Three new multi-campus transfer pathways will be created. Faculty in the PACs will create templates for three new transfer-assured pathways into parallel studies for the Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS) and Associate of Fine Arts (AFA). Faculty will be expected to consider how current degrees can be integrated or aligned with these.

From the team's research, a successful common structure for transfer degrees is 60 credits. This would include 30 credits in general education common core classes, along with broad elective courses, discipline-specific courses and other credits (such as lab credits or other course requirements) for the other 30 credits.

The team suggests a pilot of the plan focus on four discipline areas: The AA in Psychology; AS in Biology; AS in Business; and AFA in Theatre.

There are things yet to be determined, such as who will convene and organize the PACs, where results will be reported, implementation timelines and budget.

President Hanson said the proposed timeline is aggressive. By the fall of 2015 the team hopes to have the framework for the PACs developed. Development of pathways would continue through 2016 and spring of 2017, with the implementation complete by the fall of 2017.

A draft of the Transfer Degree Pathways Plan was distributed in early January to students, faculty, administrators, and staff for comment and feedback. The final report will go to the Legislature in March.

Chancellor Rosenstone pointed out that this plan only responds to the legislative mandate and does not address all concerns pertaining to transfer.

Team member Jessie Bolin said this plan will be valuable to students who complete an associate's degree at the college level. It will clearly define transfer pathways so students can be better informed, she said.

Arlene Cuthrell said although the plan does not pertain to university-to-university transfers at this point, it may set the standard for these types of transfers in the future.

Chair Anderson Kelliher said it would be wise to create pathways that are less specific in terms of discipline since many students change their majors. She said the Board also would be interested in hearing about the costs of plan implementation.

Trustee Charpentier-Berg, who worked on the legislative mandate, said she is pleased after reading the draft of the plan. The timeline may be aggressive, she said, but the proposed course of action is in the right direction.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Takash, Recorder