

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 20, 2015**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Chair Alexander Cirillo; Trustees Duane Benson, Dawn Erlandson, Maleah Otterson, Thomas Renier, Elise Ristau and Louise Sundin.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Jay Cowles, Philip Krinkie and Michael Vekich.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on October 20, 2015 at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, McCormick Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Alexander Cirillo called the session to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Minutes of the June 16, 2015 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting

Trustee Benson moved and Trustee Ristau seconded that the minutes from the June 16, 2015 meeting be approved as written. Motion carried.

2. Student Pipeline Recruitment and Pathways to Higher Education Update

Presenters:

Craig Schoenecker, System Director for Research
Pakou Yang, System Director of P-20 and College Readiness
Connie Gores, President, Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)
Kimberly Guenther, Director of Concurrent Enrollment, SMSU
Larry Lundblad, President, Central Lakes College (CLC)
Betsy Picciano, Outgoing Director of Secondary Relations, CLC
Paul Preimesberger, Incoming Director of Secondary Relations, CLC

An update was offered on the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) and concurrent enrollment programming.

PSEO was established 30 years ago for high school juniors and seniors; recent legislative changes expanded access for 9th and 10th graders. PSEO students can earn both secondary and postsecondary credit for college or university courses completed on a college or university campus, at a high school or at another location. Concurrent enrollment courses are made available through the PSEO program, but are typically offered at a high school, taught by high school faculty.

All of the system's colleges and universities serve PSEO students and 29 offer concurrent enrollment programs in partnership with school districts. In 2014, the system's colleges and universities served 90 percent of all PSEO students in the state.

PSEO student headcount increased by 65 percent since 2005, primarily due to a doubling of concurrent enrollment.

PSEO students' course success rates are substantially higher than those of other undergraduate students, and after high school they have higher college persistence and completion rates than those who did not take PSEO courses, Vice Chancellor Anderson said.

System Director Yang said there are eligibility requirements for students interesting in PSEO. Juniors need to rank in the upper one-third of their class or score at or above the 70th percentile on a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test. Seniors need to rank in the upper one-half of their class or score at or above the 50th percentile on a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test. Ninth and tenth graders need to rank in the top 10 percent of their class. She added colleges and universities can consider other factors when determining if a student is academically ready to take PSEO courses.

Trustee Benson asked if the eligibility policies are too restrictive, thereby limiting the system's ability to increase higher education opportunities for students. A policy revision may be in order, he said. Trustee Sundin agreed that the policy needs to be reviewed since reliance on test cut scores limits students' access to PSEO.

Chancellor Rosenstone said the system needs to ensure that every student who is interested in participating in PSEO is academically ready to take college courses. The rigor of the college-level curriculum must be maintained, he said.

College Now at Southwest Minnesota State University

President Connie Gores said Southwest Minnesota State University's College Now programming started in 1985 and has steadily grown to serve high school students throughout the southern part of the state. Courses at 101 high schools are provided by 309 high school teachers and 30 SMSU professors. More than 5,000 unduplicated and 9,900 duplicated students are served by College Now.

Kimberly Guenther, SMSU's College Now Director, said the program is of critical importance in their region. Allowing students to earn college credit at no cost while in high school is instrumental in increasing the affordability of higher education. It is estimated that SMSU's College Now saves Minnesota families \$9 million a year, Guenther said.

College Now works to bridge the gap from high school to college by promoting partnerships and educational alliances. High school students are able to experience SMSU programming firsthand and this experience may lead them to enroll at the university after graduation to earn their baccalaureate degree.

High school faculty benefit through mentorships and collaborations with university faculty and university faculty are enlightened by work with high school students, faculty and administrators, Guenther said. The partnership works to foster understanding on both sides.

Trustees requested that President Gores provide information on the completion rates of PSEO students who later choose to enroll at SMSU to earn a baccalaureate degree, as well as on the diversity of PSEO students.

Central Lakes College

President Larry Lundblad said Central Lakes College is the second largest provider of PSEO and concurrent enrollment in the state. Enrollment in the programs has increased by 24 percent over the past 8 years and now 35 percent of the college's unduplicated headcount is related to PSEO and concurrent enrollment.

In 2014-2015, a total of 93 PSEO students earned an associate's degree by the time they graduated from high school, Betsy Picciano, Director of CLC Secondary Relations, said. Nearly 18 percent of PSEO students matriculated to CLC after graduating from high school, she added.

In 2015, CLC's programming dramatically reduced educational debt for the nearly 2,000 concurrent enrollment students at 30 regional high schools. The average credit load per student was 11.2, which meant the average savings per student was \$2,128. In all, concurrent enrollment resulted in \$3.9 million in savings for students and families in their region.

Picciano said in addition to being offered challenging courses, PSEO students gain college-ready skills, such as time management, organization and self-discipline. They are able to continue to participate in high school activities while earning dual credit and their ultimate educational debt is decreased.

President Lundblad said high school superintendents and boards in a 60-mile radius of CLC are committed PSEO and concurrent enrollment since they recognize its benefits, especially for under-represented students.

As for the future, Vice Chancellor Anderson said the system will be working to expand PSEO career and technical education offerings. New statutory language requires student participation surveys, local concurrent enrollment advisory boards and mandates concurrent enrollment programs be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership

Marketing to high school students, particularly through the use of social media, would be a way to keep PSEO and concurrent enrollment programs strong, Trustee Sundin said.

Colleges and universities interested in recruiting PSEO students need to make them more involved in the campus community, Trustee Otterson said. Campuses need to make high school students feel like they "belong" on that campus while attending classes. This can be done by creating PSEO clubs, study groups and sponsoring activities to make high schoolers feel welcome and keep them involved, she said.

Trustee Benson said it would be a good idea to have a board study session focused on student retention. Discussion topics could include ways to recruit and retain PSEO and transfer students and how to bolster the retention of university students.

Trustee Anderson Kelliher asked how pending Higher Learning Commission faculty credentialing rules will impact high school faculty teaching concurrent enrollment programs. The rules, which will go into effect in September 2017, will require high school teachers teaching concurrent enrollment classes to have a master's degree or a minimum number of graduate-level credits in the subject area.

Chancellor Rosenstone said an inventory of the credentials of concurrent enrollment faculty across the state will be done to determine the scope of the deficiencies. The system will then need to play a central role in developing ways to bridge the gaps, such as increased educational opportunities for working teachers, the chancellor said.

The HLC credentialing rules also have implications for college and university faculty, especially those teaching courses at smaller, rural campuses, Chancellor Rosenstone said. Alternative paths to certifying the credentials of teachers other than the credits they have accumulated may be considered.

Trustee Sundin said the system should partner with Education Minnesota in the development of a plan meet these rule changes.

Trustees Erlandson and Anderson Kelliher said success stories surrounding PSEO and concurrent enrollment need to be presented to the legislature. MnSCU serves 90 percent of the students in PSEO and saves Minnesota families millions in higher education costs yearly, they noted.

While there is no doubt that the system's work with PSEO is the right thing to do, Trustee Anderson Kelliher said there needs to be sufficient funding to ensure the system can sustain it.

Chancellor Rosenstone agreed the PSEO return on investment is huge for Minnesota families and the system will need to make a strong case for adequate funding, especially considering the work that will be needed to ensure high school teachers meet new credentialing standards.

Chair Cirillo said future committee meetings will focus on:

- Topics directly affecting system academic and student affairs strategic efforts, such as Charting the Future and the Metro Baccalaureate plan;
- Items driven by a reporting group relationship;
- Important topics for the board or the public to know;
- Items pertaining to legislation;
- Items relating to diversity.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder