

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 7, 8, and 9, 2017**

February 7, 2017

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Trustees Basil Ajuo, Ann Anaya, Elise Bourdeau, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, Rudy Rodriguez, Louise Sundin, and Cheryl Tefer

Absent: Trustees Amanda Fredlund and Bob Hoffman

The Board of Trustees met in social sessions with the three finalists for chancellor, as follows:

- Lunch with Dr. Michael Martin from 11:30 am – 12:45 pm
- Social hour with Dr. Keith Miller from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
- Social hour with Dr. Cathy Sandeen from 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

February 8, 2017

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Trustees Basil Ajuo, Ann Anaya, Elise Bourdeau, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Amanda Fredlund, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, Rudy Rodriguez, Louise Sundin, and Cheryl Tefer (Trustees Fredlund and Hoffman participated by WebEx and phone)

The Board of Trustees met in open forums to conduct interviews with the finalists. The forums were facilitated by Dr. Rassoul Dastmozd, president, Saint Paul College.

- Dr. Martin was interviewed from 9:15 am – 10:30 am
- Dr. Miller was interviewed from 10:45 am – noon
- Dr. Sandeen was interviewed from 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

February 9, 2017

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Trustees Basil Ajuo, Ann Anaya, Elise Bourdeau, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Amanda Fredlund, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, Rudy Rodriguez, Louise Sundin, and Cheryl Tefer (Trustees Anaya and Hoffman participated by phone)

Convene

Chair Vekich called the meeting to order at 10:08 am, and announced that a quorum was present.

Appointment of Interim Chancellor

Chair Vekich stated that the most important responsibility for the Board of Trustees is the selection of a chancellor. The board began a search after Chancellor Rosenstone announced his intention last April to retire on July 31, 2017.

With the assistance of Storbeck/Pimental & Associates, the board conducted a national search. The search advisory committee was led by attorney George Soule and was comprised of trustees, students, faculty, staff, presidents, members of the chancellor's cabinet, and community leaders. The search advisory committee reviewed 43 applications from which 10 individuals were selected for interviews and eight elected to participate. As a result of the initial interviews, the top three candidates were selected as finalists. Chair Vekich thanked Mr. Soule and the search advisory committee for their work.

On February 7, trustees interviewed the candidates, as did members of the chancellor's cabinet and many of the college and university presidents. On February 8, trustees, presidents, faculty, staff, and students took part in forums that were held in the system office with each of the three finalists. The participants were able to ask questions and provide feedback. The board received hundreds of comments. Each of the finalists had their own strengths, but the feedback received from stakeholders made it clear that not one of the finalists was the right person to lead Minnesota State over the coming years.

Chair Vekich commented that as it became clear that none of the finalists were the right person, he began to think about who could provide interim leadership. He or she had to be someone who understands the system and who can hit the ground running and continue to move the board's agenda. Chair Vekich commented that he reached out to Dr. Devinder Malhotra to see if he would consider serving as interim chancellor. Dr. Malhotra retired last year after a distinguished career in higher education as a teacher, scholar, and gifted leader. Most recently, he served for two years as interim president of Metropolitan State University during a challenging time for the university. Prior to that, he served as the provost and vice president of St. Cloud State University for five years. Dr. Malhotra was interested in serving as the interim chancellor. Chair Vekich was pleased to recommend the appointment of Dr. Malhotra as interim chancellor of Minnesota State. Several trustees spoke in favor of appointing Dr. Malhotra.

The following motion was made by Trustee Erlandson, seconded by Trustee Bourdeau, and carried unanimously:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chair Michael Vekich, appoints Dr. Devinder Malhotra as interim chancellor, Minnesota State, effective August 1, 2017. The board authorizes the completion of an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MnSCU Personnel Plan for Administrators with a base salary of \$350,000.

Dr. Malhotra thanked the Board of Trustees for the opportunity.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.