

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Board of Trustees

St. Paul, MN

May 22, 2019

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Vice Chair Jay Cowles, Treasurer Roger Moe, and Trustees AbdulRahmane Abdul-Aziz, Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Jerry Janezich, April Nishimura, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, Samson Williams, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

Absent: Trustees Rudy Rodriguez and Dawn Erlandson

Call to Order

Chair Vekich called the meeting to order at 2:38 pm and announced a quorum was present. Trustee Samson Williams participated in the meeting by telephone.

Chair's Report, Michael Vekich

- Revised FY2020 and Proposed FY2021 Board Meeting Dates
The revised FY2020 and proposed FY2021 board meeting dates were reviewed as a first reading. The meeting calendar will be presented for a second reading and approval at the June meeting.

Update on Reimagining Minnesota State

Chancellor's Fellow, Dr. Lisa Foss, who has been staffing the work on Reimagining Minnesota State, gave an update on the project. The Minnesota State Forums wrapped up on April 4, 2019. The focus is now on gathering the thoughts and reactions from the Minnesota State community. Dr. Terry MacTaggart and Dr. Foss have had conversations with each of the trustees. The survey has closed, there were over 200 Responses.

Dr. Foss and Dr. MacTaggart have begun writing the report on Reimagining Minnesota State. The report will be a synthesis of the information that has been shared and discussed over the last six months. It will be a rich information set for the board to consider as they do the difficult work of guiding the Minnesota State system into an unknown future. The board will convene in a study session at the June meeting. The board will also receive commentary from the Forum Advisory Group. The commentary will provide their observations and perspectives from the forums.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles, and members of the board, during the past few weeks, like many of you, I had the opportunity to attend commencement ceremonies at Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Jackson campus and Minneapolis College.

It goes without saying, this is the time of the year that we all look forward to. Joining family and friends to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Each one of us had the opportunity to meet the graduates and to hear their stories. Stories just like 18-year old Melinda Cassandra Lopez who two weeks ago graduated from Minnesota West Community & Technical College, earning her associate of science degree in nursing. A few weeks later, in June, she will graduate from Fairmont High with her high school diploma. She plans to transfer to Southwest Minnesota State University to continue her nursing education.

Miss. Lopez is the first high school student to graduate from Minnesota West with a degree in nursing and very likely the state. But her story is not unique to our colleges and universities. When we say our institutions are places of hope and opportunity, it means different things to different people. It means:

- Hope for the PSEO student who graduates with their associate degree to accelerate their learning opportunities,
- Hope for the student who was told that college wasn't for them,
- Hope for the adult student who sought out new career opportunities and wanted to share the experience of achieving their goals with their children.

It is that hope and opportunity that we shared with the legislature this year. It is evident to me through our partnership tours and through our conversations with legislators, Governor Walz and Commissioner Olson – that they all feel the same pride when they hear our success stories.

Vice Chancellor King updated us yesterday on the legislative outcome and in the next few weeks we will consult and carefully consider our options and present to you our recommendations regarding the manner in which we will fund our operations over the next biennium. As I mentioned to MPR yesterday, given the overall target for higher education was \$150 million and we are at about \$81 million – I think given those realities and the competing priorities we should be pleased where we ended.

I would like to thank Trustees, Presidents, campus leaders, faculty, staff and student leaders for lending their advocacy and voice during the legislative session. I also want to thank the campus advocacy group which comprised of legislative liaisons at each of our campuses who worked with our government relations team to mobilize folks on our campuses to ensure legislators received our messages loud and clear. The advocacy group works hard and is the key connection to ensuring the priorities of Minnesota State and concerns from our campuses are heard directly. This group in addition to the efforts by students, faculty, and staff engage multiple constituencies to communicate with policy makers.

And a final thank you to Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, Speaker Hortman, Majority Leader Gazelka, and Chairs Anderson and Bernardy for their support and listening to our message from our campuses and the communities they represent. I also sincerely

appreciate the work of Commissioner Dennis Olson and look forward to continuing our partnership.

I feel our message was articulated well and we were listened to and for that we thank all the members of the legislature and know they sacrifice a great deal to serve their communities. I did learn a few lessons that at times democracy can be a bit messy and politics often resemble a contact sport. Again thank you all for your partnership and I personally am committed to continuing our outreach work as Minnesota needs a strong Minnesota State to sustain its social and economic vitality.

Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles that concludes my remarks.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes of Board of Trustees, April 17, 2019**
- 2. Minutes of the Executive Committee on May 1, 2019**
- 3. Contracts Exceeding \$1 Million**
 - a. Lease Agreement: Lake Superior College**
 - b. Construction Agreement: Richards Hall Updating, Winona State University**
 - c. Lease Agreement: Minnesota State University, Mankato**
 - d. Purchasing Card Agreement**
 - e. Zoom for Education Video Conferencing System**

Following a motion by Trustee Jerry Janezich and a second by Vice Chair Cowles, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Board Policy Decisions (Second Readings)

Proposed Amendments to Policies:

- a. 3.18 Honorary Degrees**
- b. 3.31 Graduate Follow-up System**
- c. 3.40 Recognition of Veteran Status**

Trustee Cirillo, chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee reported that the committee has recommended that the board approve the proposed amendments to Policies 3.18 Honorary Degrees, 3.31 Graduate Follow-up System, and 3.40 Recognition of Veteran Status.

The motion to approve all three policy amendments carried unanimously.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Human Resources Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

Appointment of Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities

Committee Chair Cowles reported that the Human Resources Committee received Chancellor Malhotra's recommendation of an Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities. Chancellor Malhotra recommended William Maki, current president of the Northeast Higher Education District.

Committee Chair Cowles read the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints William D. Maki as Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, effective July 1, 2019 for a term of up to two years, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the human resources committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Maki thanked Chair Vekich, Trustees, Chancellor Malhotra and his colleagues.

Facilities Committee, Jerry Janezich, Chair

- FY2020 Capital Program Recommendations (First Reading)

Chair Janezich stated that the Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement of \$130 million is the number one priority in the FY2020 Capital Program Recommendation. There are \$121 million dollars in projects. Associate Vice Chancellor Brian Yolitz indicated that some of the projects are going to have big numbers and that we should be aware of that.

Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair

Committee Chair Moe commented that the committee heard a first reading of the FY2020 operating budget. The budget will be presented for a second reading and approval at the June meeting. The committee also reviewed NextGen Phase 1, including the Finance Plan, and a first reading of the FY2020 Capital Program Recommendations. Two additional first readings included the Revenue Fund Current Refunding Bond Sale that will result in some savings with refinancing, and a request by Students United to renew its fees. Both items will be brought forward for second readings and approval in June. Last, the committee received a report on the supplier diversity issue that includes a strategy on how to increase more woman and minority contracts in the system.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair

Committee Chair Cirillo commented that in addition to the work on proposed amendments to board policies, the committee learned about strategic enrollment management strategies from St. Cloud State University and Hennepin Technical College. It is defined as a comprehensive approach to integrating all of the college's or university's programs, practices and policies and planning related to achieving the optimal recruitment, retention, and graduation of students.

Student Associations

Students United

Kayla Shelley, state chair, introduced the incoming officers whose terms begin July 1, 2019. They are: State Chair-Ola Abimbola, Vice Chair-Sandra Shimba, and Treasurer-Prapti Niroula.

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Bargaining Units
Inter Faculty Organization**

President Brent Jeffers introduced Becky Omdahl, statewide academic affairs coordinator for the IFO. Ms. Omdahl addressed the Board of Trustees.

Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty

President Tracy Rahim, addressed the Board of Trustees.

Adjournment

The Executive Committee will meet on June 5 and the board meeting is June 18-19. The July Board of Trustees meeting will be held at Hibbing Community College.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.