

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2020

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Members Present: Jay Cowles, Chair, Roger Moe, Vice Chair, and Trustees Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Robert Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, April Nishimura, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra, Members Absent: Ahmitara Alwal, Louise Sundin

**Convene, Jay Cowles, Chair**

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 8:30am. He commented that everyone is participating virtually.

Chair Cowles outlined how the board will conduct its meetings.

For the foreseeable future, Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-01, the State of Minnesota peacetime emergency declaration, remains in effect. As a result, the meetings of the Board of Trustees will be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021— Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means. Consistent with the federal and state guidance on the pandemic, in-person meetings will not be held. In addition, meeting the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have at least one board member to be physically present at the regular meeting location is not practical during the pandemic, nor is it advisable under the current conditions for the public to physically attend the regular meeting location.

As a result, members of the public are not permitted to attend any upcoming meetings due to the current pandemic. The board will continue to provide access for the public to monitor meetings via a live audio-stream of the proceedings. As we have done all along, meeting notices, meeting materials, minutes, and the link to the live audio-stream can be accessed from the board's website.

Chair Cowles conducted a roll call for attendance. All present except for Ahmitara Alwal and Louise Sundin

**Chancellor Devinder Malhotra's Introductory Comments**

Let me begin by thanking all of you for your continued guidance and commitment and time for Minnesota State your leadership and support is sincerely appreciated by all of us here at the system office, presidents and all of our faculty staff and students. So thank you all I would also like to begin by giving a brief state and federal legislative update even Trustee Janezich may have wanted this part of my update to be bit longer because as we all know there is still some unfinished business particularly at the state level let me thank all of you residents other campus and system leaders faculty and staff for your continuing advocacy over the past several months. I'm confident that this work will pay off in the coming weeks the legislature was unable to get a bonding bill across the finish line in the regular legislative session in fact the bonding bill

was defeated in both legislative bodies because of the requirement that a bonding bill needs to receive a supermajority vote. I remain optimistic however that there will be a favorable consideration for a bonding bill in a special session in fact all parties have acknowledged that they would like to pass a bonding bill. I'm optimistic because the legislators and the Walz administration learned first hand of our needs in the more than 40 separate visits to our campuses in every corner of Minnesota in addition governor Walz announced his higher education recommendation for bonding at Anoka Ramsey Community College where the need for the business and nursing renovation project. The number one project on both list resonated with everyone who has visited Anoka Ramsey. The passion for the success of our campuses and students crosses party lines in both chambers of the legislature also want to assure the board that we will continue to strongly advocate until a bonding bill is done the governmental relations team has been engaged with campus advocacy leaves and with everyone's help and support I'm confident that a robust bonding bill will get across the finish line. I'm grateful for commissioner wholesome support and his comments yesterday about the administration's support of Minnesota states bonding priorities I know many are very concerned about the dialogue regarding the state contracts and plans the outcome on this important issue is being reviewed by MMD and we will await their guidance in the coming days we negotiated the contracts and plans in good pay and we if possible intend to support them during this unprecedented time. We have been regularly engaged with a federal delegation to and I particularly want to thank Trustee Dawn Erlandson for her leadership and guidance in this regard with the implementation of the federal cares act and conversations beginning on a fourth federal stimulus package. We are conducting calls without congressional delegation as well as individual congressional member follow up conversations. I want to thank Senator Smith who engaged with me directly over the phone and she understands our needs and our priorities hard position on the committee will help shape the next proposal. The United States House of Representatives passed on food stimulus package last week known as the hero's act which is a very robust bill we look forward to continuing negotiations on this bill and will continue to stay focus on advocating for directed to States and for the needs of our students as always. The end of session brings the news of legislative retirements out of the 201 legislators to date 18 members have indicated they will not run for their seat be turn over off 18 seats even before the November election we have a great deal of work to do as we think ahead of the head to the 2021 legislative session. It has been great for friends of Minnesota State and the campuses they represent they will be missed I would like to mention a few in particular. Representative Lyndon Carlson and representative Brent Knowles as have both been longtime friends of the system and both have shared the higher education committee during their tenure on the Senate side. Higher education chair Paul Anderson and longtime serving senator Nick Cole are moving on and I want to thank them for their work on behalf of higher education I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the departing members for their commitment to public service. Unequivocally the force disruptions are shared end by the COVID-19 pandemic have affected every aspect of our operations. And with the economic fallout left in its way we continue to face many unknowns both in the short and long term yet amid these uncertainties we continue to strengthen our resolve and our resiliency. Minnesota State scored values of resiliency collaboration and innovation have been on full display as we have pulled together across all 50 four campuses to learn from and support one another it is both humbling and awe inspiring last month the bold supported a resolution that paid tribute and honor our presidents campus and system of his leadership faculty and staff for their amazing work dedication and the significant achievement of transitioning 95% of classes to

alternative modes of delivery. As I shared with editorial polls in virtual meetings with them over the last couple of weeks it has blown to smithereens the old man that higher education institutions can't adapt or change quickly trustees due to strong resolve getting commit pending commit pending commit students students that today we celebrate another significant success in the face of unparalleled adversity are students completed or are in the process of completing their spring semester this goal together with protecting the health safety and wellbeing of our faculty staff students and have guided our decision making since the onset of COVID-19 mitigation response to our students on behalf of the Minnesota State I present our appreciation and support to every one of you this is not what any of us could have imagined. This past spring has certainly tested your mettle you are all a resilient bunch and have much to be proud of end to the class of 2020 we offer a deepest congratulations on your milestone and thank campus leaders who were very creative in ordering these graduates as wise counselor Mackey indicated COVID-19 has impacted our budgets in all areas surmounting financial from pressures on our colleges and universities has created greater uncertainty in planning for fiscal year 2021. While these goals are real we must keep in mind that ODA stayed is integral to providing opportunities for all of Minnesota and we and we need to be prepared to be the spark that he has our economy. There is tremendous uncertainty much remains unknown and information and circumstances will continue to evolve but even in the exam certain times I want to make clear something is certain. He called 30 colleges and seven universities of Minnesota State will be open in fall we will be ready to welcome students and we will adapt as necessary to safely serve them and continue to provide them an affordable exceptional education. That commitment to ensuring all our students succeed means adding an equity lens to all we do including our COVID-19 response depend upon is compounding the existing inequities disproportionately impacting students without access to basic needs including technology across Minnesota. I'm pleased that Dr. Terry Hines who met you met in May executive committee meeting. Is already on our way in collaboration with Dr. Clyde Pickett and others in developing a robust framework for undo equity 2030 goal. Committee of the whole your takeaway we ask we are going on the office you take us that we're going on the offensive next extraordinary education for all Minnesotans. We had the lowest tuition as I've said previously the work that was accomplished over the past several months is nothing short of extraordinary but that same spirit and shared sense of purpose and mission is what will spur our work going forward to provide students with opportunities they need and deserve. In closing I want to say to several of you who have all the good discussion and exceptional work that is being done and never worry one of our campuses where we're able to yesterday we were able to highlight Lake Superior College and Alexandria Technical Community Colleges efforts in getting students across the finish line and enter into the workforce. These two stories I reflected on turn off one of our campuses through it we we had some good work in this spring summer started. I believe that with the leadership from the both the system office presidents other campus leaders faculty and staff we will come out to be a stronger organization and we will continue to be the partner of choice for all students and for the communities we serve.

### **Chair Cowles Remarks**

I appreciate your recognition of everybody who has created such successful presentations and I think discussion in the last day of meetings in addition to the briefings and materials over the past over the past over the past for the model this this has been a very challenging time and the response of the people of Minnesota State has been extraordinary.

Chair Cowles explained that some minor changes were made to the FY2021 board meeting calendar and all changes will be posted to the website.

Chair Cowles reads into record a resolution honoring Inge Chapen on her retirement and her 23 years of service with Minnesota State and the Board Office.

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin, Board Director, will retire on June 5, 2020, after twenty-three years of outstanding and meritorious service to Minnesota State; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin began her career at Minnesota State on October 14, 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin provided valuable counsel and advice to five chancellors, 12 Board of Trustees chairs and numerous trustees, presidents, and system office staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin brought a high level of professionalism and distinction to Minnesota State as the Board Director; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin contributed expertise, deep knowledge, creativity, order, and an open, welcoming environment to the office of the Board Director; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin personified the professional ideals and best attributes of a public servant, setting the example of dedication to principle and mission which has been an inspiration to fellow colleagues; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin focused the service of the Board office to benefit the students of Minnesota State colleges and universities; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin was selfless in service and generous in delivery to the entire Minnesota State system; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin was the respected voice of the governing board, representing all she served with excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin focused on sharing her professional expertise not only with Minnesota State colleagues, but also nationally with the Association of Governing Board colleagues; and

**WHEREAS**, Inge K. Chapin always was a ready source of colleague support and kindness; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CHANCELLOR MALHOTRA** on this day, May 20, 2020, hereby extend our sincere and grateful appreciation to Inge K. Chapin for her twenty-three years of dedicated service and contributions to Minnesota State, and offer our congratulations on her well-earned retirement and best wishes to her and her family for continued success, happiness, and good health.

#### **Inge Chapen Remarks**

Thank you Chair Cowles, Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees. I am truly touched. Thank you for your hard work, for always focusing on students and keeping the colleges and universities vibrant and relevant. I will miss you. As I listen to you talk about my career, I didn't do this alone and I would like to take a minute to say all the former trustees, Chancellor, presidents, and my colleges in the system office and

on the campuses and colleges and universities as I have come to know you have helped me and you have a wonderful leader in Chancellor Malhotra. And you have wonderful presidents all over the system and really good staff in the system office. I will miss you very much, thank you so much.

### **Chair Cowles Comments**

The resolution rings true to the professionalism and dedication in which you have served Minnesota state over the past 23 years. Your presence your grace and compassion has been evident to me each and every day in the time. We have worked together you embody the spirit and mission of Minnesota state and you remind all of them they are the reason we do this work is to have students and to make difference.

It's comforting to know you are just a speed dial call away. We will miss you too Inge, I'm honored today to also share with you comments from others you have trained and supported.

On behalf of Chancellor Anderson "Inge first and foremost Deb and I love you for being the special person you are. You have always known the difference between being a good professional and a truly caring about work and the people you care to serve. Thanks for taking care of me. This system is a much better place because of your dedication. Retire well, if you get a little board write a book Minnesota State the Minnesota historical society would cherish your viewpoint."

Comment from Chancellor James McCormick "Your greeting upon our arrival in Minnesota in 2001 was so warm and genuine. We will never forget that feeling because you're greeting made us believe that coming to Minnesota was going to be a good decision. To make each and every person you encounter feel very special is a true gift. There is no doubt that your care and feeling of the board the DLC which you applied so liberally on a daily basis contributed to a significant degree to our ability to work effectively with the board and to achieve worthy goals during that decade we served Minnesota State together."

I doubt there was ever a request made by a board member or a colleague to which you did not respond fully and efficiently. Gracious, patient, dependable these words define you professional, and energetic and tireless, caring and sincere. These words to reflect on the nature of a wonderful professional who will be sorely missed by her colleagues and friends.

On behalf of Chancellor Stephen Rosenstone. "I'm pleased to join Chancellor Malhotra, Chair Cowles and the Board of Trustees in honoring Inge Chapen and thanking her for over two decades of service to Minnesota state colleges and universities over the years Inge has been the consummate professional always doing what was needed when it was needed to ensure the boards and systems effectiveness on behalf of our students and the people of Minnesota. She has been a remarkable colleague whose good cheer wicked sense of humor empathy and stealth effectiveness build camaraderie and friendships that made life better for all of us. We are all better people for the years we worked with Inge Chapen. Minnesota state colleges and universities and its board are much stronger because of Inge's tremendous contributions. Please join in wishing Inge the best of luck as she embarks on this new journey. I'm confident that Inge will perform as brilliantly in this next chapter as she did in her last."

On behalf of all the Chancellors of Minnesota State former and current thank you for sharing your talents and your grace with all of us. We congratulate you on a great career at Minnesota state. We all wish you the very best.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Cowles asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, as shown below. No items were removed.

- 1. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole, April 22, 2020 (pp 1-12)**
- 2. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, April 22, 2020 (pp 13-30)**
- 3. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, May 6, 2020 (pp 31-35)**
- 4. Authority to Purchase Real Property Exceeding 1% of Yearly Fiscal Operating Budget, Alexandria Technical and Community College (pp 4-7 of the Facilities Committee's meeting materials and pp 7-10 of the Finance Committee's meeting materials)**

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Committee of the Whole, Jay Cowles, Chair**

Chair Cowles gave a brief report on the committee of the whole meeting on the Minnesota state response to the COVID-19 crisis. He explained that we are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> month in a row responding to the COVID -19 crisis. Work is underway to start successful fall and summer classes on all campuses.

Commissioner Dennis Olsen noted that 95.6% of all classes are returning to college instructions including online. Close engagement with student leadership has helped engage students to attend this spring.

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair**

Committee Chair Cirillo proposed an amendment of board policy 3.34 for Academic Semester Start Dates. This is the last board policy to be reviewed and all board policies are under general review. This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on this policy.

#### **Joint Meeting: Audit and Finance Committees, George Soule and Roger Moe, Co-Chairs**

Director Wion of Internal Audit informed the committee about the Information Security Consultation Project, and the phase 3 results. They also covered the Data Classification review results.

#### **Facilities Committee**

Committee Chair Janezich talked about the proposed amendment to board policy 5.17, Sustainability, Resources Conservation and Recovery, and Environmentally Responsible Practices. This was a 1<sup>st</sup> reading on this policy.

**Finance Committee**

Committee Chair Moe spoke about the 2020 legislative session results and the FY2021 operating budget has a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Also proposed amendment to board policy 5.17, Sustainability, Resources Conversation and Recovery, and Environmentally Responsible Practices had a 1<sup>st</sup> reading for this committee.

**Student Associations**

Written testimony was provided by President Oballa Oballa, LeadMN, It included a brochure on Hunger Free Campus. It is attached to these minutes and can be found on the Board website. There is no testimony from Students United.

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Bargaining Units**

Written testimony was provided by President Tom Torgerud of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. It is attached to these minutes and can be found on the Board website.

**Trustee Reports**

The Chancellor Performance Review Committee will meet on June 4<sup>th</sup> and the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees is on June 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. At the annual meeting, the board will approve the two-year meeting calendars and elect a chair and a vice chair.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12pm