

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Committee of the Whole Meeting

July 22, 2020

Present: Chair Jay Cowles, Vice Chair Roger Moe, and Trustees Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, April Nishimura, Rudy Rodriguez, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich, Samson Williams and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

Absent: Trustee Ahmitara Alwal

Call to Order

Chair Jay Cowles called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. He welcomed all trustees, presenters, participants and the audience statewide. He explained that Governor Walz's executive order 20-01 State of Minnesota peacetime emergency declaration remains in effect and is currently extended through July 13. For the foreseeable future meetings of the Board of Trustees will be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021 meetings by telephone or other electronic means. He also explained that 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. He informed everyone that the meeting materials, and live audio stream of the proceeding are available from the Board of Trustees website: <https://www.minnstate.edu/board/index.html>.

Representatives of the bargaining units and student associations were requested to submit their written testimony in advance of the meeting. All testimony was distributed to trustees for their review yesterday evening. He will recognize that the written testimony has been received later in the meeting.

Chair Cowles conducted a roll call of the trustees who were participating by telephone. They are: Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, April Nishimura, Rudy Rodriguez, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich, Samson Williams and Roger Moe.

Chair's Report

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Chair Cowles, Vice Chair Moe, and trustees-

As we approach our fifth COVID-19 Board update, it is clear that we will be having these types of conversations for several months or perhaps years as we do our best to

provide educational opportunities to Minnesotans in every corner of the state and do our best in providing a safe environment to accomplish this goal.

While some of my colleagues may accuse me of being a professor during the 1918 pandemic, I can tell you there is no playbook on how to respond let alone lead during a pandemic – although I'm sure there are many in development. Over the next few months and years, we will learn together how to balance safety concerns with the economic uncertainties that lie ahead.

We all know that safety is on the minds of our students, parents, faculty, staff, and campus leadership in every community we serve. We also know that all of us have different levels of risk that we are comfortable with and while I understand different viewpoints we will always err on the side of safety.

Last Thursday, I made the decision on two fronts that all Minnesota State employees, students, and visitors, including contractors and vendors will be:

- required to wear a face covering when inside any of our facilities when physical distancing is not possible, and
- all will be required to complete a health screening tool, currently in development by IT, prior to entering any of our facilities.

Over the past five months, I have been asked many “what if” questions regarding potential outbreak at one of our campuses, a future second wave, athletics and student activities not only for fall but winter and spring – as well as the hardest question *can you guarantee my safety*. I wish I could guarantee everyone's safety that comes to our campuses. And I know I am not alone in this as we think about our K-12 colleagues who are also making their own very difficult decisions as they approach the start of a new school year.

What we can guarantee is:

- we will mitigate risk based on the advice and guidance from CDC and MDH and continue to be their active partners to implement new processes and protocols,
- we will wear masks and continue to practice social distancing,
- we will continue to prioritize and strengthen both campus and system wide communication, and most importantly,
- just as we did in the spring, we will make the tough decisions that are needed.

Those decisions will be informed by guidance from MDH and local county public health officials. Our presidents and their teams have developed strong relationships with their local health partners. As we move forward there may be times that a campus in one part of the state must make a quick decision based on what is happening within that specific region. When campuses need to read and react to their community, I am confident of our presidents and their leadership team will work consultatively to tailor

their safety measures accordingly with continued support from the system office. But when a system approach makes sense, we have proven we will not shy away from a difficult and controversial decision.

Today, we want to provide the board with insight to what our campus leaders are wrestling with as they prepare for the fall semester.

With that, Chair Cowles, I would like to pass the presentation to Sr. Vice Chancellor Anderson.

Report from Ron Anderson, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Vice Chancellor Anderson began by providing an overview similar to what he shared with us over the past few months on where things currently stand relative to our delivery modes of instruction as well as enrollment plans. He explained that we will be hearing from a number of campuses about how they are handling the instruction, enrollment and student success at their campuses.

Presentation slide deck for this report can be found on the Board website. Topics covered include:

- Alignment to Equity 2030
- Minnesota State Law Enforcement Education Reform
- Post Board Rulemaking Participation
- Short and Long Term Goals and Timeline
- Campus Driven Reform
- Minnesota State Program Offerings
- FY20 Student Characteristics
- FY20 Student Characteristics
- FY20 Credentials Conferred
- Process for Becoming a Licensed Police Officer
- Peace Office Licensing Exam Pass Rates

Inver Hills Community College: Culturally Responsive practice: Re-envisioning of the Law Enforcement Program, Addressing Racial Equity and Law Enforcement Curriculum, Re-envisioning of the Law Enforcement Program

Minnesota State University Mankato: Criminal Justice Education Program Review, Brief overview of programs –Corrections, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement

Presenters:

Rochester Community & Technical College Presenter
Jeffery Boyd, President and Chief Academic Officer

Inver Hills Community College Presenters

Dr. Leslie Palmer, Criminal Justice Instructor & Program Coordinator
Mr. Michael Birchard, Associate Vice President of Equity and Inclusion
Dr. Janica Austad, Associate Dean of Career Programs
Dr. Tia Robinson Cooper, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Minnesota State University Mankato Presenters

Dr. Pat Nelson, Chair of the Department of Government & Director of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Programs
Dr. Sherrise Truesdale-Moore, Associate Professor of Corrections
Dr. Matt Loayza, Dean of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Henry Morris, Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion

Questions/Comments

Trustee Cirillo asked if Inver Hills build the framework for cultural assured sponsored program. Framework is being worked on currently and will be sure to include them with the updates.

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.

Chancellor Closing Remarks

I want to thank our colleagues who came here today and shared with you their efforts and their approaches as to how are they are looking at this work and moving it forward as we go. I said that this is an ongoing cadence of program review but there is a certain sense of immediacy and urgency and we need to accelerate this work and we need to accelerate law enforcement, faculty staff and students. They're not just looking for reports they're looking for actions and steps we will take and so in that regard today's conversation was a very important kickoff of series of action steps which will occur which hopefully will prepare us much better to play our role as we move towards transformative policing.

I would just add that I appreciate as well all of the folks on campus all the team sharing what they've been doing and I hope you get a sense of the deep commitment not only at the system level but also at the campus. To make this kind of transformative change again these are just two examples of work that is underway and we know that other campuses are also engaging in these questions and will work quickly and diligently to help support that work and to share that work as Trustee Soule was asking about to make sure they campuses are learning from one another as well and that we can support the sharing of that information in those emerging frameworks. So thank you for your time and ability to share what we're doing today. Thank you, this was a very rich series of presentations thank you to everybody who prepared them participated in an and most importantly for the hard work that lies ahead and your focus on it and I know the board looks forward to the next update in the coming year. With that I'm going to adjourn the meeting of the committee of the whole of the board and this concludes a string of five monthly board meetings beginning in March and I will see you again formally September for the retreat.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.