



Meeting Minutes
Special meetings
June 30, 2021

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**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2021**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 30, 2021.

Trustees present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Roger Moe, Vice Chair; Asani Ajogun, Ahmitara Alwal, Dawn Erlandson, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer, and Michael Vekich

Trustees absent: Alex Cirillo, Rudy Rodriguez, Kathy Sheran

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 189. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Thank you for holding this special Board meeting to consider Minnesota State's operating budget. As you know, today the legislature and governor are finishing up their work on passing Minnesota's biannual budget. From reports that I have seen it certainly appears that the last two major bills relating to K-12 and taxes will be passed today to complete their work.

Vice Chancellor Maki has presented the details of the higher education bill and I, again, want to thank him and his team for their great work.

I also want to acknowledge my deep appreciation of the efforts of our Government Relations team led by Bernie Omann and Melissa Fahning. They did a superb job under some trying circumstances to make sure that our colleges and universities came out of the budget process intact and well placed.

I also appreciate the strong support demonstrated by the Walz/Flanagan Administration and Commissioner Dennis Olson, and the leadership of Chair Connie Bernardy and Chair David Tomassoni. The agreed upon budget proposal moves the state's talent pipeline forward and helps ensure access to an extraordinary education in an equitable manner

for ALL Minnesotans.

I would like to thank the board for providing counsel and advice, and to the many of the trustees who were engaged directly in lobbying efforts throughout the session. In addition, I am grateful to our presidents and so many other colleagues who helped move this process along across our campuses and at the system office.

We also remain hopeful that a bonding bill will emerge in the final hours and do look forward to engaging our legislative partners in advocating for the boards 2022 capital request.

Minnesota is the only state in the country where the house and senate are controlled by different parties and while it took a bit longer it appears that with a great deal of work and patience - the Governor and our legislative leaders got to the finish line just in time.

Chancellor Malhotra introduced President Deidra Peaslee to provide remarks related to the recent lifting of Higher Learning Commission probation sanction for Saint Paul College.

Chair's Report, Jay Cowles

As we gather for our final meeting of FY2022, I would like to take some time to reflect on the notable accomplishments of the past year – and what a year it has been! As was the case for much of the world, the board was forced to adapt to the virtual environment in which we needed to conduct our business due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We all became better at this as the months of Zoom meetings flew by and I would like to believe that we ended this 'year of Zooming' with fewer instances of needing to say, "you're on mute!" then when we started.

Last fall, the board approved the project budget, finance plan, and vendor selection for the NextGen project. This represented the culmination of years of tremendous efforts across our system and we look forward to updates on this critical project that will provide the entire system with a 21st century technology infrastructure and will propel our 37 colleges and universities towards sustainability.

The board also launched a self-assessment effort to serve as a valuable benchmark of our successes and challenges as a board, and ultimately, to improve board governance and performance and allow us to expand our ability to meet our trustee responsibilities. This effort led to improvements to our processes, particularly pre-meeting support and communication for board committees, that allow trustees to be better prepared for committee meeting discussion and actions. I am grateful to Interim Board Director Kari Campbell for her efforts on these improvements and look forward to continuing this work in the coming year. Trustees should expect to see the annual board self-assessment survey in late August/early September; this survey will again serve as an opportunity to reflect on our work and will provide valuable information for our September retreat.

As we look at the year ahead, I want to note a few things. As previously announced, there will be no board meetings in July and our next time together as a board will be for the annual retreat on September 21-22, which is scheduled to take place in Austin, MN. Regular board meetings resume in October. With COVID-19 restrictions easing, we will continue to plan the transition back to in-person meetings with more discussion to come on what that looks like for our board. I will also be making new committee assignments for FY2022 so trustees – please look for a survey from Kari next week to solicit your committee interests for the coming year.

And lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize and extend our gratitude to Trustee Ahmitara Alwal, whose appointment as a student trustee ends today. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Minnesota State, I thank Trustee Alwal for her valuable contributions and service. I have appreciated her curiosity and her clear focus on decision-making centered on the best interests of Minnesota State. She has been a clear example of the fact that the diverse voices that make up Minnesota State are essential to effective governance and a strong and vibrant education system.

Chair's Report to the Board / Chancellor's Performance Evaluation

I would like to turn now and report on the work of the Chancellor Performance Evaluation Committee this year.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee – Trustee Erlandson who is the Chair of the Outreach and Engagement Committee; Vice Chair Moe who is Chair of the Finance Committee; and Trustee Vekich who is Chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee – for their thoughtful work this year. The Chancellor provided a draft of his FY2021 workplan to the Board at our Retreat last September, for review and suggestions. The Committee then met with the Chancellor in November to review his revised draft of the workplan, and to discuss our process for evaluation of his performance during the year. The Chancellor's workplan was then posted on the board's website, for everyone to access.

The Committee met with the Chancellor in early April and again in June, to review progress updates, to discuss our evaluation of the Chancellor's performance, and to offer suggestions and guidance to the Chancellor as he shapes his plans for the coming year. The Chancellor's most recent progress update was shared with the full Board before today's meeting, and this morning the full Board met in closed session to discuss the Committee's conclusions. Committee members shared their evaluation and discussions with the full Board, invited trustee comments, and we heard strong support for Chancellor Malhotra's leadership.

In summary:

The Board of Trustees considers Chancellor Malhotra to have performed at an outstanding level in his role and responsibilities this year, under very challenging circumstances. His deft organizational leadership organized an urgent and highly effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic and often-changing guidance from national, state, and local public health agencies. In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, Chancellor Malhotra recognized the need for a rapid and thorough statewide re-evaluation of law enforcement academic programs, which was conducted in collaboration with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The Chancellor oversaw the careful and thorough contract negotiations for the NextGen contract with Workday, that were brought to a successful conclusion with a Board vote of approval in November, and with HR and Finance implementations begun this past January. Seven important system leadership searches were successfully completed this year, including two for Vice Chancellor positions. All the while, a host of strategic initiatives made substantial progress this year, building the resources and strategies that will enable Minnesota State to achieve the goals of Equity 2030.

To be clear: As the Chancellor is the first to acknowledge, and as do the Trustees, these accomplishments are not due solely to his personal efforts. The faculty, staff, system and campus leadership of Minnesota State have shown equal measures of grit, creativity, and resolve in completing a productive academic year while maintaining momentum in the projects that will create the future for our students that we seek. And we especially recognize the extraordinary resourcefulness, resilience, and commitment that the students demonstrated each day this year, despite unprecedented stresses and hurdles.

Through it all, Chancellor Malhotra continued to provide compelling leadership, through his words, empathy, and careful but tough decision-making in carving a path for others to demonstrate their highest potential, and for the system to continue evolving into an increasingly resourceful environment for its faculty, staff, and students, from which even greater accomplishments are possible. The Board affirms the Committee's conclusion that Chancellor Malhotra performed at an outstanding level in FY2021, and offers the Chancellor our full support for the year's work ahead.

This concludes my report on behalf of the Chancellor Performance Evaluation Committee.

Consent Agenda

Chair Cowles asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Janezich made the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and Trustee Vekich seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Alwal	Yes

Trustee Cirillo	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Absent
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, June 16, 2021**
- 2. Contracts Requiring Board Approval:**
 - a. Master Contract for Mobile Devices, Mobile Device Damage and Theft Protection, With Flexible Leasing Options, System Office**

Board Standing Committee Reports

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Michael Vekich, Chair

Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee approved recommendations for the appointment of Vice Chancellor for Information Technology.

The Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Jacquelyn Malcolm as Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, effective August 2, 2021, 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 Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness 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.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes

Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Absent
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Jacquelyn Malcolm was introduced to make remarks.

Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair

Committee Chair Moe reported that the committee approved a recommendation to adopt the FY2022 annual operating budget.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

- Adopt the annual total all funds operating budget for fiscal year 2022 as shown in Table 8.
- Approve the proposed tuition structure recommendations and differential tuition rationale for fiscal year 2022 as detailed in Attachments 1A through 1H*.
- To approve a special contracted tuition rate for Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC) of \$150 per credit for its pilot program with the United States Naval Community College. The pilot program allows active service members to take up to 30 credits per academic year in existing courses at ATCC. This special contracted rate would be for FY2022, with the potential to extend to FY2023 and beyond.
- The chancellor or designee is authorized to approve any required technical adjustments, and is requested to incorporate any approvals at the time fiscal year 2023 tuition recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees.
- Continue the policy of market-driven tuition for closed enrollment courses, customized training, and non-credit instruction, continuing education, and contract postsecondary enrollment option programs.
- Approve the Revenue Fund and related fiscal year 2022 fees for room and board, student union, wellness and recreation facilities, and parking ramps/surface lots as detailed in Attachments 2A through 2E*, including any housing fees that the campuses may charge for occupancy outside the academic year.
- Authorize the chancellor or designee to enter into an agreement with the Learning Network of Minnesota to provide the funding appropriated to the organization in Minnesota Laws 2021, First Special Session, in the amount of \$4,115,000.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Absent
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

Student Associations and Bargaining Units

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks. Written remarks were provided by LeadMN and have been posted to the board website.

Trustee Reports

Additional reports were heard from Trustee Soule, Trustee Erlandson, and Chancellor Malhotra.

Adjournment

Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

**Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2021**

A special meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on June 30, 2021.

Committee members present: Roger Moe, Chair; April Nishimura, Vice Chair; Ahmitara Alwal, Jerry Janezich, Kathy Sheran, George Soule, and Michael Vekich.

Committee members absent: None

Other board members present: Jay Cowles, Board Chair

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Bill Maki, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 8. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Committee Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Contracts Requiring Board Approval: Master Contract for Mobile Devices, Mobile Device Damage and Theft Protection, With Flexible Leasing Options, System Office

Committee Chair Moe invited Vice Chancellor Maki to present the contract requiring board approval, as detailed in the meeting materials. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 9.

Committee Chair Moe asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the chancellor or the chancellor's designee to execute a master contract for up to five (5) years (3+1+1) for an amount up to \$50 million. The board directs the chancellor or his designee to execute all necessary documents.

Trustee Vekich made the motion and Trustee Nishimura provided a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Agenda Item 2: FY2022 Annual Operating Budget (2nd Reading)

Committee Chair Moe invited Vice Chancellor Maki along with Steve Ernest, System Director for Financial Planning & Analysis, to present the second reading of the FY2022 Annual Operating Budget, as detailed in the meeting materials. The materials for this item begin on page 13.

Committee Chair Moe asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

- *Adopt the annual total all funds operating budget for fiscal year 2022 as shown in Table 8.*
- *Approve the proposed tuition structure recommendations and differential tuition rationale for fiscal year 2022 as detailed in Attachments 1A through 1H.*
- *To approve a special contracted tuition rate for Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC) of \$150 per credit for its pilot program with the United States Naval Community College. The pilot program allows active service members to take up to 30 credits per academic year in existing courses at ATCC. This special contracted rate would be for FY2022, with the potential to extend to FY2023 and beyond.*
- *The chancellor or designee is authorized to approve any required technical adjustments, and is requested to incorporate any approvals at the time fiscal year 2023 tuition recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees.*
- *Continue the policy of market-driven tuition for closed enrollment courses, customized training, and non-credit instruction, continuing education, and contract postsecondary enrollment option programs.*
- *Approve the Revenue Fund and related fiscal year 2022 fees for room and board, student union, wellness and recreation facilities, and parking ramps/surface lots as detailed in*

Attachments 2A through 2E, including any housing fees that the campuses may charge for occupancy outside the academic year.

- *Authorize the chancellor or designee to enter into an agreement with the Learning Network of Minnesota to provide the funding appropriated to the organization in Minnesota Laws 2021, First Special Session, in the amount of \$4,115,000.*

Trustee Janezich made the motion and Trustee Vekich provided a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Adjournment

The committee chair adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.



**Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2021**

A special meeting of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on June 30, 2021.

Committee members present: Michael Vekich, Chair; Dawn Erlandson, Vice Chair; Ahmitara Alwal, Roger Moe, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer

Committee members absent: Alex Cirillo

Other board members present: Asani Ajogun, Jay Cowles, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa, Rudy Rodriguez, Kathy Sheran

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Eric Davis, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 186. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Committee Chair Vekich called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Appointment of Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

Committee Chair Vekich invited Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Eric Davis along with Chancellor Devinder Malhotra to present the Appointment of Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, as detailed in the meeting materials. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 187.

Committee Chair Vekich asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Dr. Jacquelyn Malcom as Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, effective August 2,

2021, 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 Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness 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.

Trustee Moe made the motion and Trustee Soule seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Absent
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Adjournment

The committee chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.