

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2008**

Executive Committee Members Present: David Olson, Chair; Trustees Duane Benson, Ruth Grendahl, Clarence Hightower, David Paskach, Christine Rice and Scott Thiss

Executive Committee Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street East, St. Paul, on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

(1) Minutes of January 16, 2008

As there were no corrections to the minutes, Chair David Olson declared that the minutes were accepted as written.

(2) Per Diem Guidelines

Chair Olson reported that the guidelines for per diem were first discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in January. The draft guidelines on pages 535 and 536 have been revised to clarify events and activities needing prior approval. Chair Olson asked the Trustees to review them and let him know if they have any comments or suggestions.

(3) Draft FY 2009 Meeting Calendar

A draft of the FY 2009 meeting calendar was distributed. The proposed schedule follows the same pattern as FY 2008 with committee and Board meetings every other month with special meetings, hearings and retreats on other months. The Board is planning a retreat on a campus in greater Minnesota in October and a meeting on a Metro Area campus in January.

(4) Proposal for Web Casting

Vice Chancellor Ken Niemi reviewed a proposal for Web casting the Board meetings. There would be a one-time cost for additional hardware, including two or three ceiling mounted cameras that could be operated remotely. Total cost would range from between \$55,000 and \$93,000. The upper range would cover video streaming at about \$1,400 per hour with an archiving cost of about \$200 a month.

Trustees were interested in knowing if there would be any savings for the people that usually travel to the meetings. The people that would likely benefit are the staff and students on a campus who would be most interested in the outcome of a Board action. There will always be an audience at Board meetings. Trustee Thiss recommended surveying the Leadership Council to see if it would be helpful for them to Web cast the meetings.

Chancellor McCormick explained that Leadership Council committee co-chairs regularly attend the meetings as do any presidents who have items pertaining to their institutions on the agenda. In addition, other presidents attend the meetings as a time to become acquainted with the governance process and to connect with other presidents and staff. The Chancellor continued that the Leadership Council meets 10 times a year and the presidents do not wish to meet by phone; they prefer face to face meetings.

Vice Chancellor Niemi offered a pilot as one way to measure interest by the Leadership Council and the campuses. He also will survey staff and see how they react and get detail on soft and hard savings. Responding to a question about other uses for the Board Room, Vice Chancellor Niemi replied that there are technological improvements that could be done to better equip the room for other purposes. Chair Olson asked Vice Chancellor Niemi to survey the Leadership Council to ascertain their interest in Web broadcasting the meetings.

(5) Electronic Meeting Materials

Board Secretary Inge Chapin reported that planning is well underway for making the meeting materials available online. Adobe Acrobat software was ordered and committee staff has been training on converting documents into PDF formats which is how the documents will appear on the Board of Trustees Web site. The Board meeting materials will be available online beginning in July 2008.

(6) Discuss May 20 -21, 2008 Meetings

Chair Olson reviewed the agenda for the meetings on May 20-21, 2008, with the committee chairs.

(5) Other

Trustee Rice reported that the Advancement Committee heard a report from Ed Campus representatives, an educational model underway in the Twin Cities that will provide classroom space for diverse higher education institutions on a single campus in Chaska, Minnesota. The Advancement Committee referred the initiative to the Executive Committee.

Vice Chancellor Laura King explained that staff has had conversations with the Ed Campus developers and that they are planning for a fall 2010 opening. She continued that several of the system's campuses in the Metro Area could use additional space sooner than 2010. Senior Vice Chancellor Baer added that Ed Campus' proposal is similar to other initiatives that are led by developers rather than academic programming. Senior Vice Chancellor Baer and Vice Chancellor King were asked to monitor and advise the Board on any future developments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.