

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 16, 2008**

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

Executive Committee Members Absent: Ruth Grendahl and David Paskach

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, Fourth Floor Conference Room A, St. Paul, on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at 3:45 p.m.

**(1) Minutes of May 20 and 21, 2008 Meetings**

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on May 20 and 21, 2008, were accepted.

**(2) Review of July and September Meetings**

Chair David Olson commented that some members expressed that this month's meetings could have been scheduled more efficiently. For example, yesterday's committee meetings started at 10:00 a.m. and concluded by 2:30 p.m. Trustees commented that they liked the new meeting format with less staff presentation and more time for discussion. Some members noted that while the open-ended discussions were good, they were unsure of the outcome.

On the metro planning discussion, Chancellor McCormick indicated that it will be in our best interests to build Metropolitan State University to take more transfer students. The Board is not interested in creating another campus. Trustee Scott Thiss commented that yesterday's tuition study discussion during the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee was instructive. Staff did a good job summarizing the discussion, but in September the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee will hear a report that will help the Board formulate policy. Chair Olson explained that staff work, presentations and recommendations will shape the committees' discussions for their agenda items. The committee chairs will make clear which agenda items will require action or need additional discussion and action at a future meeting. As an example, Vice Chancellor Laura King explained that the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee had a discussion on tuition in May and again in July. There will be yet another discussion in September in advance of action in November on the system's biennial budget recommendation.

In preparation for the legislative session, Chair Olson noted that metro planning would be a major topic for the Board in September. He continued that an overview of the Office of the Chancellor also would be helpful. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors Laura King and Bill Tschida agreed that staff had time to prepare for an overview and walking tour of the Office of the Chancellor at the September meeting. Chair Olson suggested the

overview and tour be planned for the second day and that it include an organizational chart with budget and staff data.

**(3) Discussion of October 22-23, 2008, Retreat**

Chair Olson reported that Dr. Kent Eklund, Cincinnati, will facilitate the October retreat that will focus on 2020 planning. Chancellor McCormick suggested that the Board might want to convene a panel of trustees, presidents, the governor and others following the retreat to hear from other constituents about 2020 planning. The panel could convene on Board meeting days, and they also may want to visit with leaders at Best Buy Corporation or Target to hear about their future planning processes. The panel would present its recommendation in late spring or early summer. The panel's recommendations would help inform the Board on the next chancellor search.

Chair Olson commented that the Board would like to hear from new groups and competitors such as Capella University. President Patrick Johns inquired whether the Board would like the Leadership Council to prepare some principles around their vision for the system for 2020? President Johns was asked to forward three principles for the Board's consideration.

Chair Olson noted that he and the Chancellor will meet with Dr. Eklund to plan the agenda for the retreat. Chair Olson continued that the Chancellor will drive the agenda and that the Board will hear a recommendation for the retreat agenda at the September meeting. Chancellor McCormick commented that Dr. Eklund will lead the discussion.

**(4) Leadership Council Comments**

President Patrick Johns reported that the Leadership Council developed a list of topics for discussion on 2020 planning. The list included:

- Funding and preparation for the system's appropriation request;
- Tuition and whether the system will have flexibility or a cap;
- Enrollment levels as graduation rates are leveling off;
- Responding to community needs; and
- Systemwide initiative on business visits.

Responding to a question, President Johns explained that the Leadership Council will have input on the tuition study before it is presented to the Board of Trustees. They will discuss it at the Leadership Council meeting on September 9, 2008.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.