

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2010**

Executive Committee Members Present: Scott Thiss, Chair, Duane Benson, Cheryl Dickson, Dan McElroy, Christine Rice and Louise Sundin

Executive Committee Members Absent: Clarence Hightower

Other Members Present: Christopher Frederick, Alfredo Oliveira and James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th St., E., 4th Floor, Board Room, Saint Paul, on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. Chair Scott Thiss convened the meeting at 2:35 PM and announced that a quorum was present.

(1) Minutes of June 16, 2010

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of June 16, 2010, were approved.

(2) Discuss September 14-15, 2010, Meetings

Chair Thiss commented that he would like the Executive Committee to be more involved in planning the agendas and schedules for the committee and board meetings, study sessions and retreats. He asked members to consider having the Executive Committee meet earlier in the month instead of at the end of the two-day committee and Board meetings. Board Secretary Chapin reported that the Cabinet discussed alternative meeting dates and concluded that the best time for the Executive Committee to meet would be after the Leadership Council meetings, which typically are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Trustee McElroy suggested convening the meeting via "go to meeting" technology where the participants can view documents at the same time. Trustee Dickson proposed convening a committee of the whole so that all of the Board members could be involved in the planning process. Trustee Benson suggested that his preference is to plan with the end in mind. The Executive Committee could identify which three key questions/issues the Board would like or need to have answered each month and then steer the agenda to provide the answers.

Trustee Rice inquired whether the Executive Committee needed to meet each month. The committee chairs and staff review the agendas ahead of time. Any overlap with agenda items could be addressed by joint committee meetings. By the time the board packet is printed, it is too late to make meaningful changes to the agenda or schedule.

Trustee Van Houten agreed with Trustee Dickson about convening a committee of the whole for planning the meeting agendas. The Executive Committee is for an emergency when the full Board cannot meet. It is charged with board operations, development and the Board's operating budget. He did not favor expanding the Executive Committee's mission. Chair Thiss noted that planning the meeting agendas would not expand the committee's mission.

Trustee Dickson commented that she was intrigued by Trustee Benson's idea of having the agendas answer big questions, such as what are new ideas in education, what is happening on a national or international scale. She urged the Executive Committee to find a way to explore it. Trustee Rice added that the system has many resources, including talented and respected experts in various disciplines.

Chair Thiss asked what is the role of the Executive Committee. Chancellor James McCormick recalled when the Executive Committee meetings were held on separate days other than the Board meetings and some of the Trustees felt excluded. Trustee McElroy proposed that it could meet early in the morning, perhaps at 8:00 AM, on the second day of the two-day meetings, rather than at the end of the day. The committee does need to be involved in planning the meetings, study sessions and retreats. Chair Thiss said that the suggested time was too early in the process to allow for topics to develop. Trustee McElroy added that the meetings could be conducted via telephone, and if that does not work, then other approaches could be tried. Another topic for the Executive Committee would be to give direction to Trustee Benson who is heading a task force on planning the retreat. Trustee Benson thought the guidance would be helpful. He continued that he prefers to have the end in mind when planning a retreat or meeting.

Vice Chancellor-Chief Financial Officer Laura King reiterated that the day after Leadership Council would work best to allow for input from the Leadership Council and to meet the production schedule. Chair Thiss proposed convening the Executive Committee at 8:00 AM on the day after the Leadership Council meetings. The meeting would be cancelled if there was no need to meet that month. The meetings can be conducted via meet me technology, interactive television or by conference call. Vice Chancellor Information Technology Darrel Huish's staff can support the needed technology. General Counsel Gail Olson advised that a member of the committee would have to be physically present at the regular meeting place. The Chancellor can determine which Cabinet members need to attend the Executive Committee meeting.

Trustee Sundin commented that she thought it would be really good for the Board to have a discussion on Dr. Ewell's recommendations on assessments. They could be one of the Board's "Big Hairy Audacious Goals." Trustee Sundin also commented that she has heard from some presidents about the timing of the Board's goals as they relate to their planning efforts. Chair Thiss responded that the Board may need to adjust its schedule. President Kopischke, president, Alexandria Technical and Community College and co-chair of the Leadership Council, added that the Board's goals are ready now and that the presidents are using them to guide and inform their planning processes.

There was a discussion about limiting the time for the constituency groups to address the Board to between three and five minutes. Some Trustees felt that there was no need to limit the time as the Chair can remind the speakers of the need to be succinct when making their remarks.

(3) Leadership Council Comments.

President Kopischke commented that the two-year colleges are looking at the Gates Foundation and its support for increasing student retention and success. The main conversation was on the budget challenges.

(4) Discussion of Committee Goals

Chair Thiss noted that several committees will meet in August to review the proposed issues and goals that were shared with the Board during the study session on the morning of July 20. Chancellor McCormick remarked that Chair Thiss has been hard at work since early July by meeting with the Trustees and others to identify the issues for each committee to consider.

(5) Adjournment

Chair Thiss adjourned the meeting at 3:17 PM.