

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Chair Christine Rice; Trustees Duane Benson, Tom Renier, Louise Sundin and James Van Houten.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Absent: Christopher Frederick and David Paskach.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Scott Thiss, Jacob Englund, Dan McElroy, Alfredo Oliveira, Michael Vekich and Cheryl Dickson.

Leadership Council Committee Co-Chairs Present: Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson and President Sue Hammersmith.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on September 14, 2010, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 1:23 pm.

1. Minutes of July 20, 2010

The minutes from the July 20, 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

2. Minutes of August 19, 2010

The minutes from the August 19, 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Update – Interim Vice Chancellor Olson

- Interim Vice Chancellor Olson gave an overview of the budget reductions in the Academic and Student Affairs Division. He said cuts were made strategically.

Four areas in the division are impacted by the reductions, with a total loss of 11 positions. Combined with 11 additional positions cut the past two years, the division will have a 32 percent overall reduction in state-funded positions.

The Center for Teaching and Learning and the Credentialing unit are being restructured, which will result in a reduction of several personnel. One position is being cut in Research and Planning and the EMS functions of the Fire Center will be transferred to the Finance Division, he said.

Trustee Van Houten asked if the Fire Center Library would be moving to a campus. He said it is an outstanding resource and is one of the few places where safety officials in the Midwest can do research.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said there are ongoing conversations about moving the library, as well as some of the Fire Center's educational functions, to a campus, but no decisions have been made yet.

- A new online service to help veterans and members of the armed forces identify whether their military training can count for college credits in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has recently been launched, Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said. The Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS) is the first of its kind in the nation.

The system was developed with the assistance of the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Funding for developing the transfer system came from a federal grant supported by members of Minnesota's congressional delegation.

- There is a new Career OneStop website, done in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Economic Development, which helps people match current occupational skills and experiences to new careers and suggests training needed for these career changes. The website is called mySkills myFuture.
- Trustee Benson said the Board of Trustees' retreat in October will focus on what the Board can do that will have the greatest impact on the students and state in the future, long after current members have left the Board.

4. Mission Approvals:

Board Policy 3.24 requires institutions to have their missions approved by the Board of Trustees at least once every five years.

- **Dakota County Technical College**
Presenter: Kelly Murtaugh, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

College vision: Dakota County Technical College will be recognized as a leader in providing quality technical and general education needed for employment in an ever-changing work environment.

Mission statement: The mission of Dakota County Technical College is to provide collegiate-level education for employment that will empower individuals to enhance their opportunities for career advancement and success in a global economy.

Discussion:

Vice President Murtaugh said the vision, mission and purposes presented reaffirm the institutional mission approved by the Board of Trustees in 1998. The college continues to be committed to technical education excellence and there are no changes in the mission statement, she said.

When asked about enrollment trends at the college, Vice President Murtaugh said enrollment is going upward at a steady rate. It is up 9 percent this year and spring enrollment looks to be as strong as last year's rate, which was one of the best semesters ever at the college.

The college's primary service area is the southern metro area, but several unique and innovative programs draw students from throughout the state, as well as the nation, she said. Those programs include railroad conductor, biomedical equipment repair, nanoscience technician and wood finishing technology.

Trustee Benson asked Vice President Murtaugh if it would be helpful if the Board were to clearly specify college readiness expectations for incoming freshmen.

Vice President Murtaugh said defined expectations may be helpful since many students, as well as their parents, have assumptions about programming at an open access technical college. The college and its curriculum have dramatically changed over the past 40 years, she said.

Trustee Van Houten said he remains concerned about the state of technical education in the system. The Board of Trustees recently approved mission changes for two technical colleges, allowing them to become comprehensive colleges. Such changes should be made in a more strategic manner, he said, adding he would like to see this issue receive additional discussion by the Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Benson and seconded by Trustee Renier that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Dakota County Technical College to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. The motion carried, with one abstention from Trustee Van Houten, who said he would like the issue of technical college mission changes to be discussed again by the Board of Trustees and handled in a more strategic manner.

- **Northland Community and Technical College:**
Presenter: President Anne Temte

College vision: Northland Community and Technical College will be widely recognized as a progressive leader in community and technical college education, responsive to the needs of our learners through the use of partnerships, innovation and technology.

College mission: Northland Community and Technical College is dedicated to creating a quality learning environment for all learners through partnerships with students, communities, businesses, and other educational institutions.

Discussion:

President Temte said the college had a very robust strategic planning process in fiscal year 2008-2009 which involved 350 participants. At that time participants determined that they were satisfied with the existing mission and vision statements, which were approved by the Board in 1999.

The northwestern part of the state has not suffered the effects of the recession as severely as other regions have, President Temte said. Companies in their area are still hiring and experiencing growth. Enrollment at the college was up 6 percent last year and enrollment is holding steady so far this year.

Part of the enrollment increases may be linked to strong recruitment efforts, President Temte said. There are ongoing efforts to make connections with students who are in jeopardy of not completing high school. Since many high schools have reduced technical education offerings the past few years, the college has worked to attract students who are more inclined toward vocational education.

There also has been a 12.5 percent increase in students of color at the school, President Temte said.

Trustee Van Houten asked what is meant by the terms “progressive leader” in the vision statement. President Temte said that terminology is meant to indicate a desire to develop and offer cutting-edge programming and services in anticipation of the needs of students and communities.

Chancellor McCormick noted the college was able to adapt and adjust to major changes in the aviation industry and has made a remarkable turnaround in that program area.

President Temte said the college’s Aviation Maintenance Program has been awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant of \$5 million, allocated over the next three years. It will be used to establish an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Maintenance Training Center, the first of its

kind in the country.

This grant will position the college to be at the forefront of this developing industry, along with partners at the University of North Dakota and the Grand Forks Air Force Base, President Temte said. With the aviation maintenance expertise at the airport site in Thief River Falls, the region will become a leader in the emerging technology of remotely piloted aircraft.

A motion was made by Trustee Van Houten and seconded by Trustee Sundin that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Northland Community and Technical College to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. Motion carried.

- **Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical**
Presenter: Jim Johnson, President

College vision: Shaping the workforce by providing quality education for today and tomorrow.

College mission: Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical is dedicated to providing education for employment, skill enhancement, and retraining. The primary focus is to anticipate and meet the educational and training needs of students and employers.

Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical provides students with a strong foundation of general and technical educational opportunities for acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes for a lifetime of learning. The college anticipates and responds to global, technological and social changes.

Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical provides equal opportunity and recognizes individual needs in its education, service and employment practices. Certificates, Diplomas, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science Degrees are awarded upon successful completion.

Discussion:

President Johnson said the college's mission and vision statements are not changing. The college will continue to concentrate on being a leader in technical education and because of partnerships with other system institutions, he doesn't foresee a need for the college to become a comprehensive college.

Technical colleges such as Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical have benefitted from being in a merged system, President Johnson said.

The merger allows technical colleges to be treated equally in the higher education community

The college's growth took off when the effort was made to align the college strategic goals with the strategic goals of the system, President Johnson said. There was a 21 percent growth in enrollment last year and an additional 4 percent this year.

Trustee Van Houten noted males make up only 37 percent of the student population at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical and asked why the figure is so low. President Johnson said this is a trend throughout the higher education community. Part of the reason may be that the college has strong allied health education programs which tend to attract more females than males.

A motion was made by Trustee Benson and seconded by Trustee Renier that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. The motion carried, with one abstention from Trustee Van Houten, who said he would like the issue of technical college mission changes to be discussed again by the Board of Trustees and handled in a more strategic manner.

5. 2009-2010 Honorary Degrees Report

The annual report on honorary doctorates awarded in fiscal year 2010 was presented.

Two honorary degrees were awarded:

- Gordon Viere, CEO of LarsonAllen, was presented an honorary Doctorate of Business Administration by St. Cloud State University. LarsonAllen is one of America's 20 largest accounting and consulting firms and Viere was granted the doctorate in recognition of achievement and outstanding success in his professional and personal life.
- Shigeko Sasamori was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Winona State University. Ms. Sasamori is a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing and was recognized for her commitment to promoting worldwide peace.

6. Discuss and Select Committee Goals

Chair Thiss sought input from each trustee concerning key issues or ideas that the Board of Trustees might consider and discuss during the fiscal year. In August, the committee refined and sorted a list of ideas and got feedback from the Leadership Council. Two goals for inclusion in its work plan were identified:

moving responsibility for remedial education to two-year colleges; and studying a 12-month academic calendar and a three-year baccalaureate program.

Chair Rice said the selection of these two goals does not mean that the committee can't discuss or act on other goal suggestions, such as making college readiness expectations clear to prospective students.

Trustee Englund asked how much remedial education currently is done at universities.

President Hammersmith said Metropolitan State University, for example, does not offer remedial courses. Students go to two-year colleges for developmental coursework.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said staff could obtain information on the status of remedial education at universities and report back to the Board.

Trustee McElroy asked if students needing developmental coursework could obtain it through adult basic education programs. This may be a less-expensive way for students to receive this type of coursework, he said.

A motion was made by Trustee Benson and seconded by Trustee Sundin that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the following goals that will be added to the committee's FY 2011 work plan:

- *Study the pros and cons of moving responsibility for remedial education from the universities to the colleges and make a decision on implementation by June 21, 2011; and*
- *Study the pros and cons of implementing a 12-month academic calendar and a three-year baccalaureate program and make a decision on implementation by June 21, 2011.*

7. 60/120 Credit Length Legislative Report

By October 1, 2010, the Board of Trustees must provide a report to the Legislature providing information about the status of program credit length reductions and the disposition of waiver applications submitted during FY 2010.

Laws passed in recent years affect the length of selected degree programs. The maximum number of semester credits required for a baccalaureate degree must be 120 credits by June 2012. The maximum credits in an associate degree must be 60 credits by that date.

The law permits the board to grant waivers for specific degree programs in which industry or professional accreditation standards require a greater number of credits.

During FY 2010, 327 degree programs reduced credit lengths to 60/120 and now 87 percent of the degree programs are now in compliance with Minnesota statute and Chancellor's policy and procedure

Six waiver applications pertaining to engineering programs were submitted and approved. During 2011 and 2012, group waivers applications are expected in areas such as law enforcement, health care and teaching programs.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said students in programs, such as engineering, need to have additional coursework to meet national accreditation standards. Extra coursework may be necessary in some areas of teacher education as well.

Chair Rice asked why some state universities offer associate degrees.

Associate Vice Chancellor Manuel López said historically no community colleges were located in the same community as a state university. This caused some universities to begin to offer associate of arts and associate of applied science degrees to serve more students in each university's service area. Few associate degrees are awarded by universities today, he said.

Trustees discussed if this is something that should be promoted. Trustee McElroy pointed out students possibly could earn an associate's degree, even if they leave the university before earning enough credits for a baccalaureate degree. This would help improve institutional graduation rates, he said. People with degrees tend to be more employable and earn higher wages, he added.

President Hammersmith said universities offering associate degrees are more common in states that do not have a strong community college network. Associate degrees would often be aimed at students interested in transferring to a specialty program, such as veterinary medicine, at another school. These degrees also could be appealing to students who not only want a two-year degree, but also a university experience, such as living in a campus residence hall.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said this topic is something the committee could discuss in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder