

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** January 19, 2011

**Agenda Item:** Mission Reaffirmation: Minnesota State University, Mankato

Proposed  
Policy Change

Approvals  
Required by  
Policy

Other  
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

**Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:**

Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements requires institutions to have their missions approved by the Board at least once every five years.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Richard Davenport, President, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

The vision, mission and purposes presented by Minnesota State University, Mankato reaffirm the institutional mission approved by the Board of Trustees in 1996. The reaffirmed statements meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**BOARD ACTION**

**Mission Reaffirmation: Minnesota State University, Mankato**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The vision, mission and goals of Minnesota State University, Mankato meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements. The university is reaffirming its mission (previously approved by the Board of Trustees in September 1996) under the new Board policy requirement that colleges and universities seek Board approval at least once every five years.

**Minnesota State University, Mankato’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:**

**Vision:** Minnesota State University, Mankato will be known as a university where people expect to go further than they thought possible by combining knowledge and the passion to achieve great things. Our foundation for this vision is our heritage of both dedicated teaching and the direct application of knowledge to improve a diverse community and world. We will achieve it by actively nurturing the passion within students, faculty and staff to push beyond possibility on the way to realizing dreams.

**Mission:** Minnesota State University, Mankato promotes learning through effective undergraduate and graduate teaching, scholarship, and research in service to the state, the region and the global community.

**Purpose 1** The University will foster an actively engaged and inclusive learning community based upon civility, trust, integrity, respect, and diversity in a safe, welcoming physical environment.

**Purpose 2** The University will prepare students for careers and for life-long learning by providing a clearly defined general education program and focused undergraduate pre-professional, professional, and liberal arts programs.

**Purpose 3** The University will strengthen its role as a major provider of graduate education, offering intensive, scholarly graduate programs including collaborative efforts with other institutions and professionals, culminating in student expertise at professional levels.

1 **Purpose 4** The University will enhance advising, support services, and learning experiences that  
2 aid students in identifying life goals, planning academic careers, and achieving timely  
3 graduation.

4  
5 **Purpose 5** The University will increase the quantity and quality of service to the state, region,  
6 and global community through collaboration, partnerships, and opportunities for cultural  
7 enrichment and continuous learning.

8  
9 **Purpose 6** The University will invest in the professional development of all members of the  
10 University Community and in the appropriate technologies necessary to achieve excellence in  
11 learning through teaching, research, and service.

12  
13 **Purpose 7** The University, as a whole and in all of its parts, will establish priorities through  
14 planning and assessment processes that anticipate our needs and focus our efforts and resources  
15 in support of our mission and goals.

16  
17 **Array of Awards:** The *array of awards* offered by Minnesota State University, Mankato  
18 includes an Associate Degree; Baccalaureate degrees; Master’s degrees; Specialist degree;  
19 Doctoral degrees; Pre-professional programs of study and Certificate programs.

## 20 21 22 **BACKGROUND**

23 Minnesota State University, Mankato’s beginnings can be traced to a Mankato attorney who, in  
24 1867, persuaded the Minnesota Legislature to authorize the city of Mankato to sell bonds for the  
25 \$5,000 required to open the state’s second normal school. He promised Mankato citizens that if  
26 they would support the school, “untold benefits would be repaid tenfold for every dollar  
27 invested.”

28  
29 Mankato Normal School opened in 1868 with 27 students. Tuition was free in return for a  
30 pledge to teach two years in Minnesota schools. Old Main was constructed in 1870, beginning  
31 the Valley Campus that would serve the institution for over a century. The institution expanded  
32 and the curriculum grew. In 1921, the school became Mankato State Teacher’s College, and in  
33 1927, the first four-year degree (a bachelor of education) was awarded.

34  
35 In the late 1950’s, the college was renamed Mankato State College to reflect its expanding  
36 curriculum. At the same time, the college was outgrowing the Valley Campus and construction  
37 began on a parcel of land named the Highland Campus.

38  
39 In 1975 full university status was accorded and four years later, the Valley Campus closed and  
40 all activities consolidated on the Highland Campus. In September 1998, the Board of Trustees  
41 approved a name change, and Mankato State University became Minnesota State University,  
42 Mankato to reflect its expanded role in the state and region.

43  
44 The Higher Learning Commission completed a comprehensive evaluation during the 2005-2006  
45 academic year. Prior to the site visit, the university had completed a self-study which included  
46 consultation with faculty, staff, students, community members and other stakeholders regarding

1 the University's mission. Minnesota State University, Mankato was reaccredited by the Higher  
2 Learning Commission for a ten year period. The next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for  
3 the 2015-2106 academic year.  
4

#### 5 **OVERVIEW OF MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES**

6 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Minnesota State University, Mankato meet the  
7 criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4:  
8 Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.  
9

10 As required by procedure, the institution must:

- 11 A. Describe how its mission and vision align with the requirements in Policy 3.24;
- 12 B. Articulate how the college or university will meet expectations of law, how it relates to  
13 other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision, and purposes  
14 support fulfillment of the system mission and vision;
- 15 C. Describe the array of awards it offers;
- 16 D. Include a statement that the college or university mission is compliant with statute,  
17 policy, and regional accreditation requirements; and
- 18 E. Describe consultation with faculty and staff, students, employers and other essential  
19 stakeholders.

20 Additionally, the institution's mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional  
21 accreditation requirements.  
22  
23

#### 24 **REVIEW OF MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO'S MISSION, VISION 25 AND PURPOSES/GOALS**

26  
27 **The mission, vision, and purposes respond to the system procedure.** Minnesota State  
28 University, Mankato's vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and  
29 regional accreditation requirements. The College mission, vision, and purposes demonstrate  
30 alignment with the system mission and vision.  
31

32 The university is reaffirming an institution mission that was approved by the Board in  
33 September, 1996.  
34

35 The *mission* of Minnesota State University, Mankato, is "Minnesota State University, Mankato  
36 promotes learning through effective undergraduate and graduate teaching, scholarship, and  
37 research in service to the state, the region and the global community."  
38

39 Minnesota State University, Mankato serves the people of Minnesota, the Midwest region and  
40 the global community.  
41

42 The university provides effective undergraduate and graduate learning experiences in the  
43 classroom through faculty who engage in scholarly activities and provide research opportunities  
44 (primarily in applied research) for faculty and students.  
45

1 The university provides higher education to prepare students for careers and for life-long  
2 learning, and as a major provider of graduate education, additionally conducts research that  
3 benefits mankind.  
4  
5

6 The university mission supports the system mission in the following ways:

- 7 • Being a distinct institution that collaborates with others in the system
  - 8 • Meeting personal and career goals of a wide range of individual learners
  - 9 • Enhancing the quality of life through scholarly and creative pursuits
  - 10 • Partnering with business, industry, government, and non-profit organizations in research  
11 opportunities to sustain economies
- 12

13 Minnesota State University, Mankato is a leader in the Minnesota State Colleges and  
14 Universities system in providing quality undergraduate programs as well as a growing graduate  
15 school that includes 4 applied doctoral programs. With more than 150 undergraduate programs  
16 of study and more than 100 graduate programs, the University's learning is structured in six  
17 academic colleges and the graduate college. The University is expanding off campus outreach  
18 through its 7700 France Avenue site in Edina and through online programs. Several centers  
19 provide research opportunities and the University collaborates with its partner colleges in the  
20 Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence. Our academic quality is  
21 recognized by 24 regional or national accrediting agencies, including the Higher Learning  
22 Commission. Our most popular programs are elementary education, physical education, biology,  
23 law enforcement, management (business) and psychology.  
24

25 The *vision* for Minnesota State University, Mankato states that "Minnesota State University,  
26 Mankato will be known as a university where people expect to go further than they thought  
27 possible by combining knowledge and the passion to achieve great things. Our foundation for  
28 this vision is our heritage of both dedicated teaching and the direct application of knowledge to  
29 improve a diverse community and world. We will achieve it by actively nurturing the passion  
30 within students, faculty and staff to push beyond possibility on the way to realizing dreams."  
31

32 To achieve this vision, Minnesota State University, Mankato will provide high quality learning  
33 experiences for students so that they can achieve more than they thought possible. This  
34 enthusiasm (passion) for learning and discovery will permeate the campus. Our graduates will be  
35 leaders in their communities and professions. So that passion and learning can be nurtured, there  
36 will continue to be an emphasis on providing collaborative learning areas – whether in academic,  
37 administrative or student buildings. There will be additional learning communities within the  
38 residence halls. Research opportunities will continue to grow as will our graduate, doctoral,  
39 extended learning, and online areas.  
40

41 Our campus culture wishes to excel. We desire as a university to be among the very best. We  
42 set stretch goals and achieve them. We want our students to be prepared for leadership roles.  
43 We encourage scholarly, creative, and research activities. We provide opportunities for our  
44 faculty to become better teachers. We seek out diversity, and our retention rates for  
45 underrepresented populations are among the highest in the system. We want to be a Great Place  
46 to Work and are striving to achieve this goal.

1  
2 The university's vision for itself is consistent with the vision for the Minnesota State Colleges  
3 and Universities system:

- 4 • Desire for student success
- 5 • Access for diverse groups
- 6 • Impact on the quality of life beyond state boundaries

7  
8 The university's strategic priorities align with system goals in the following ways:

9 We will plan and build the Campus of the Future (Strategic Direction 1,2,3,4,5)

10 We will think and act like a Doctoral Institution (Strategic Direction 2,4)

11 We will grow Extended Learning (Strategic Direction 1,2,3,4)

12 We will promote Global Solutions (Strategic Direction 1,2,3)

13 We will embody Quality and Excellence in all that we do (Strategic Direction 2)

14  
15 The stated *purposes* of Minnesota State University, Mankato are:

16  
17 **Purpose 1** The University will foster an actively engaged and inclusive learning community  
18 based upon civility, trust, integrity, respect, and diversity in a safe, welcoming physical  
19 environment.

20  
21 **Purpose 2** The University will prepare students for careers and for life-long learning by  
22 providing a clearly defined general education program and focused undergraduate pre-  
23 professional, professional, and liberal arts programs.

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25 **Purpose 3** The University will strengthen its role as a major provider of graduate education,  
26 offering intensive, scholarly graduate programs including collaborative efforts with other  
27 institutions and professionals, culminating in student expertise at professional levels.

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30 that aid students in identifying life goals, planning academic careers, and achieving timely  
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34 and global community through collaboration, partnerships, and opportunities for cultural  
35 enrichment and continuous learning.

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37 **Purpose 6** The University will invest in the professional development of all members of the  
38 University Community and in the appropriate technologies necessary to achieve excellence in  
39 learning through teaching, research, and service.

40  
41 **Purpose 7** The University, as a whole and in all of its parts, will establish priorities through  
42 planning and assessment processes that anticipate our needs and focus our efforts and resources  
43 in support of our mission and goals.

44  
45 Examples of how the Minnesota State Mankato purposes are supporting the mission and goals of  
46 the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system include:

- 1 • Provides accessible higher education for a diversity of individual learners
- 2 • Prepares students to succeed
- 3 • Offers higher education that meets the personal and career goals of individual learners
- 4 • Enhances the quality of life through collaborations, partnerships and opportunities for
- 5 cultural enrichment and continuous learning

6  
7 The *array of awards* offered by Minnesota State University, Mankato includes an associate  
8 degree; baccalaureate degrees; master’s degrees; specialist degrees; applied doctoral degrees;  
9 pre-professional programs of study and certificate programs.

10  
11 The university offers more than 150 undergraduate programs of study, including 16 pre-  
12 professional, seven certificate, one associate and 127 bachelor’s degree programs. More than 100  
13 graduate programs include master’s, specialist, certificate and 4 applied doctoral programs.

14  
15 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**  
16  
17 The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves  
18 the request by Minnesota State University, Mankato to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes, and  
19 array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

20  
21 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**  
22  
23 The Board of Trustees approves the request by Minnesota State University, Mankato to reaffirm  
24 its vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.