

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURALISM
MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2012**

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Present: Trustees Louise Sundin, Chair; Duane Benson, Vice Chair; Cheryl Dickson, Clarence Hightower, Alfredo Oliveira.

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Brett Anderson, Jacob Englund, David Paskach, Scott Thiss, James Van Houten

Leadership Council Members Present: Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor; Whitney Stewart Harris, Chief Diversity Officer; Gail Olson, General Counsel; Rassoul Dastmozd, President, Saint Paul College

A meeting of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee was held on April 18, 2012, at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, 4th Floor McCormick Room, 30 7th Street East, St. Paul. Chair Sundin called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Trustee Sundin asked that we include another point in the minutes, and that was number 5, another conclusion to the number of partnerships with business on campus in Baltimore, so that every student had an opportunity for an internship was a very critical piece of that presentation; the minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting were then approved as written.

2. Asian Youth Leadership Retreat Collaboration

Trustee Sundin revised the order of the presentation in order to accommodate the student presenters. Throughout the year we attempt to highlight collaborations that assist students from underrepresented classes to become successful students. Since 2009, the division has had a pilot program with Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. Our college and university students act as mentors in a leadership program which focuses on Asian and other underrepresented students; to date 143 students have been involved and engaged in this weeklong residential camp.

The program has served over 13 different Asian ethnic students, 35% have been from Hmong community. Also have 14% are from new refugee communities (Tibetan, Burmese, Karen students). Keep them on the right path, right away. Get the best models out to the communities right away. Of the 100 participants served – it's a young group, 70 are still in high school, and 30 have graduated. Twenty four of the 30 who have graduated are enrolled in higher education institutions.

One of the goals of this program is to offer campuses best models of working with underrepresented students. All of the student presenters had positive comments about the program. Trustee Paskach asked the students to consider being student trustees at the board level. Chancellor Rosentone encouraged the continuation of these types of partnerships. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities contribution has been approximately \$10,000 a year, resulting in a cost of \$209 per student.

3. Diversity Division Update

At the invitation of Southwest Minnesota State University, the Diversity and Equity division along with the General Counsel's Office, provided non-discrimination and diversity training to over 150 community employees in Marshall, Minnesota; most of them were employees with agencies dealing with disabled individuals.

The division is also cooperating with Army reserve to develop health initiative to reach high school students, providing the diversity training component from our staff.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine McGing