

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

APPROVAL OF INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR OF  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

1 **BACKGROUND**

2 Upon Doug Knowlton's announcement to depart his position as vice chancellor of academic and  
3 student affairs effective July 1, 2013, Chancellor Rosenstone requested nominations and  
4 expressions of interest for the interim vice chancellor position.

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6 Nominations and expressions of interest were sought from the board, presidents, system office  
7 staff and other individuals within and outside the system. Applications and nominations were  
8 reviewed by the chancellor. Chancellor Rosenstone reviewed all input received and consulted as  
9 appropriate to develop his recommendation to the board. Chancellor Rosenstone is  
10 recommending John O'Brien to serve as the interim vice chancellor of academic and student  
11 affairs.

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13 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

14 The Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following  
15 motion.

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17 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

18 The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Rosenstone, appoint John  
19 O'Brien as interim vice chancellor of academic and student affairs effective June 1, 2013, subject  
20 to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in  
21 consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Human Resources Committee, to  
22 negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of  
23 the MnSCU Personnel Plan for Administrators.

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25 *Date of Approval: April 17, 2013*

## John O'Brien, Ph.D.

### Education

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Ph.D., English, University of Minnesota. *Summa cum laude*/4.0 GPA (1995)

M.Phil., Anglo-Irish Literature, University of Dublin, Trinity College (1986)

B.A., English and education majors, speech and theatre minor, Augustana College (SD).  
*Magna cum laude* (1984)

2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt, National Karate Schools

### Higher Education

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#### President, North Hennepin Community College (2010-)

##### NHCC Highlights

- NHCC Foundation fundraising increased by 12% from 2010-12
- Board of Trustees Accountability Measures Improved - in 2010, 42% of NHCC dashboard measures were RED (“needs attention”) compared to 10% by 2012
- Top 10-20% of system colleges/universities for CFI, FCI, achievement gap for students of color, student loan default rate

##### Recognition

- Finalist, Fulbright Award, India (2012)
- Nominated, Joint Civilian Orientation Conference program sponsored by the Secretary of Defense (100 nominees in US) (2013)
- Nominated “President of the Year” by NHCC Student Senate
- Service Award, Ubah Medical Academy, a Somali Charter School (2011)

##### Selected Service

- Board Member, Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth Board of Directors, Board Member, Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth Board of Directors, advancing youth development in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center (2012-)
- Board Member, NorthStar STEM Alliance Governing Board (2010-)

- Board Member, HealthForce Minnesota Executive Alliance (2010-)
- Board Member, Learning Network of Minnesota Board of Directors (2011-)
- Board Member, ARC Minnesota (2011-)
- Board Member, Lutheran Social Services Foundation (2011-)
- Board Member, Minnesota Campus Compact Board of Directors (2011-);  
Governance Committee Chair (2011-)
- Leadership Council Liaison, Statewide Student Associations (2010-)
- Member, MnSCU Campus Service Cooperative Steering Committee (2011-)
- Member, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Leadership Council (2008-09; 2010-)
- Chair, NHCC Continuous Improvement Council (2011-)
- Chair and Facilitator, NHCC Strategic Planning Team (2011)
- Chair, Metro Presidents Alliance (2012); Member (2008-09)
- Member, Bottineau Transitway Policy Advisory Committee (2011-)
- Doctoral Dissertation Committee (topic: presidential leadership competencies),  
Capella University (2010)
- Mentor, Luoma Leadership Academy (2007-)

### **Students First Director (2009-10)**

#### **Highlights**

- Working directly with key stakeholders, including the MnSCU Board of Trustees, Leadership Council, statewide student associations, faculty and staff unions, and others
- Communicating broadly and regularly with constituent groups and interested parties

### **Acting President, Century College (2008-09)**

#### **Highlights**

- Increased Century College Foundation contributions, including a 28% increase in faculty/staff giving
- Campus employee registrations for professional development/training increased by 58% and overall satisfaction with all-college development event increased from 75% to 93%
- 1.5% increase in three-year graduation rate, 3.6% increase in retention, and 1.3% increase in combined graduation and transfer rate

- Overall enrollments increased 4% for fall, 5% for spring, and 20% for summer; number of adult/mature students increased 12%

### Recognition

- Nominated “President of the Year” by Century Student Senate
- Century Student Voice Award

### **Academic Vice President/Chief Academic Officer, Century College (2005-2008)**

#### Selected Service

- Chair, Metro Alliance Chief Academic Officers (2007-08); Member (2005-08)
- Chair, Century Master Academic Planning Committee (2005-06)
- Chair, Century Diversity Committee (2007-08)
- Co-Chair, Century Innovation Council (Fall 2006-08)
- Co-Chair, Century Planning Committee (2005-08)
- Co-Chair, Century College Conference Committee (2007-08)
- Co-Chair, Teaching and Learning Standing Committee (2006-07)
- Co-Chair, University Partnerships Task Force (2005-06)
- Member, Global Education Committee (2006-08)
- Member, Executive Council, Minnesota Online Council (2007-08)
- Member, Metro Area Marketing Study Planning Group (2008)
- Member, Century Marketing Task Force (2006-07)
- Member/Co-Chair, Facilities Advisory Committee (2005-07)
- Member, Academic Affairs and Standards Council (2005-08)
- Member, Academic Programs Advisory Group, Office of the Chancellor (2005-08)
- Member, AQIP Planning Committee (Merged with Century Planning Committee)
- Member, General Education Assessment Committee (2005-08)
- Member, Honors Program Committee (2005-08)
- Member, Statewide Chief Academic Officer Advisory Committee (2005-08)
- Member, Statewide Strategic Innovation Group, “Vision 2020 Think Tank” (2006)
- Member, Systems Development Steering Committee (2006-08)
- Century College Intellectual Property Coordinator (2006-08)

## **Associate Vice Chancellor, Instructional Technology, MnSCU System Office (1999-2005)**

### Highlights

- Managed several key areas with responsibility for supporting campus academic technology, Minnesota Satellite and Technology, communications, and instructional management system selection and implementation
- Responsible for improving communication, governance, and consultative processes
- Served as divisional planning director and developed a planning framework for campuses
- Developed first system IT accountability “success scorecard” to measure divisional performance and responsiveness to campus and student needs

### Selected Service

- Founding Chair, Student IT Advisory Committee (2004-05)
- Chair, System Technology Strategy Council (2004-05)
- Chair, Search Committee for Office of the Chancellor HR Director (2004)
- Chair, Center for Teaching and Learning Task Force on Adjunct Faculty Support (2004)
- Chair, Statewide Digital Learning Plan Working Group (2003-04)
- Chair, Minnesota Online Council E-Policy Working Group (2001-02)
- Chair, Campus Technology Planning Task Force (2002)
- Co-Chair, Information Technology Management Council (2004-05)
- Co-Chair, Academic IT Committee (1999-05)
- Project Manager, Instructional Management System RFP Process and Desire2Learn system implementation (2003-05)
- Member, Statewide Digital Learning Plan Steering Committee (2003-04)
- Member, Office of the Chancellor Diversity Task Force (2002-05)
- Member, Minnesota Online Council (2002-03); E-Services Workgroup (2002-05)
- Member, Minnesota Online Council Marketing Working Group (2002-03)
- Member, Administrative Systems Steering Committee (2002-04)
- Member, Information Technology Roundtable (2001-04)
- Member/Resource, Center for Teaching and Learning Steering Committee (1998-05)
- Member, Intellectual Property Task Force (1998-02)

## Teaching and Campus Service

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### Teaching Positions Held

- Instructor, Honors Seminar, NHCC (Summer 2013)
- Instructor, Hennepin County Co-Parenting Program, Storefront Group (2000-05)
- English and Composition Instructor (UFT), Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN (1994-99)
- Adjunct Instructor, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN (1991-93)
- Instructor, Program in Composition, University of Minnesota (1991-93)
- Adjunct Instructor, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN (1991-92)
- Teaching Assistant, English Department, University of Minnesota (1990-93)
- Instructor (full-time), Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD (1987-89) and summers (1990-92)
- English Teacher (full-time), O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, SD (1984-85)

### Teaching/Research Recognition

- Published *Milan Kundera and Feminism: Dangerous Intersections*, recommended by *Choice* magazine
- Nominated Distinguished Faculty (1996, 1997)
- Awarded 1993-94 William W. Stout Fellowship, University of Minnesota Graduate School (endowed dissertation fellowship)
- Awarded 1993 Samuel Holt Monk Prize "for best published scholarship by a graduate student," University of Minnesota, English Graduate Studies
- Awarded English Department Fellowship, University of Minnesota (1989-90)
- Ranked "outstanding" in Augustana College evaluation (1987, 1988)
- Awarded full graduate fellowship for master's degree in Anglo-Irish literature at Trinity College, Dublin, International Rotary Foundation (1985-86)
- One of 100 teachers in the U.S. recognized as Outstanding First-Year Teacher for 1984-85 in the Sallie Mae National Teacher Awards Competition ("recognizing academic achievement and outstanding performance as a first-year teacher")

### Faculty Leadership and Service: Normandale Community College (1995-99)

- President, Normandale Community College Faculty Association (1998-99), vice-president (1997-98), recorder (1995-96), Executive Committee member (1995-99)
- Chair, Center for Teaching and Learning Steering Committee
- Chair, MCCFA (statewide faculty union, now MSCF) Faculty Development Committee
- Co-Chair, General Matters Meet-and-Confer Committee
- Coordinator, Normandale Honors Program
- Coordinator, Placement Test Appeals
- Member, Normandale Strategic Planning Committee
- Member, Normandale NCA Steering Committee
- Member, Enrollment Management Steering Committee
- Member, MCCFA Salary Task Force
- Member, MCCFA Governmental Relations Steering Committee
- Member, Technology Planning Committee
- Mentor Teacher, University of St. Thomas Community College Teaching Internship Program
- Faculty Mentor, Concurrent Enrollment Program (Norwood-Young America)
- Faculty Advisor, *Phi Theta Kappa* Five-Star Chapter
- Active Member of Normandale English department, serving on many committees, including the Placement for Success Task Force, department scheduling committee, Assessment and Evaluation Committee, Outstanding Student Committee, hiring committees, and others
- Helped develop and implement a successful \$250,000 instructional technology grant and served as Project Leader (1997-98)
- Served as founding director of the Digital Resource Center (DRC), offering extensive beginning-to-advanced training for faculty and staff and providing leadership for the college's instructional technology initiatives
- Developed college composition course for distance delivery
- Designed websites for faculty, departments, and non-profit organizations

### Faculty Leadership and Service: Augustana College Service (1987-89)

- Faculty Mentor, New Student Seminar
- Faculty Advisor and Founder, Amnesty International (founded regional branch, 1988)
- Faculty Advisor and Founder, Augustana Writers' Workshop
- Member, Social Justice Committee

- Member, [HIV/]AIDS Task Force
- Event Coordinator, International Women's Day, Sioux Falls, SD (1989)
- Volunteer Board Member, Program Co-Editor, and Performer, fundraiser performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* for HIV/AIDS education, Ordway Music Hall (May 1987)
- Supervisor, English Department Workstudy Program

## **Professional Publications**

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Below is a small sampling of representative publications

Newspaper Article, "A Bright Future for Higher Education--Somewhere Else," [Minneapolis Star Tribune](http://obrienexmachina.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/strib-op-ed-john-obrien-011413.pdf), January 14, 2013, <http://obrienexmachina.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/strib-op-ed-john-obrien-011413.pdf>

Newspaper Column, "Better Transit Means Better Education," [SUN Newspaper](http://post.mnsun.com/2012/05/guest-column-better-transit-means-better-education-bottineau-transitway-should-have-a-stop-at-north-hennepin-community-college/), May 2012, <http://post.mnsun.com/2012/05/guest-column-better-transit-means-better-education-bottineau-transitway-should-have-a-stop-at-north-hennepin-community-college/>

Newspaper Column, "Focus on Finishing," [Sun Newspaper](http://obrienexmachina.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/final-sun-column-0909102.pdf), September 9, 2010, <http://obrienexmachina.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/final-sun-column-0909102.pdf>

Article, "Credo: Higher Education, Community Colleges, and the Future," Brave New Work World (May 2010), <http://www.newworldtrends.org/page24/page24.html>.

Author, Introduction and Poem "For Amy," *Breathing In: Stories from the Century College Alumni*, eds Cheryl Gfrerer and Pakou Vang, McNaughton and Gunn, Inc., April 2009, <http://www.century.edu/files/breathingin/introduction.pdf>, <http://www.century.edu/files/breathingin/amy.pdf>

Published Interview, "Interview with John O'Brien: Now is the Time to Prepare for Millennial Faculty," *Academic Leader*, Volume 23, No. 2, February 2007, [http://www2.acenet.edu/resources/chairs/docs/Kelly\\_Millennial.pdf](http://www2.acenet.edu/resources/chairs/docs/Kelly_Millennial.pdf)

Article, "Technology in Tough Times," *Leadership Abstract*, League for Innovation, February 2003. Volume 16, Number 2, reposted: <http://tinyurl.com/bz9yzku>.



## **Selected Professional Presentations**

Below is a representative sampling from 120+ keynotes/presentations on various higher education topics:

[Pending] Presentation, "Classroom Capture and Student Success at NHCC," UBTech's Community College Leadership Summit (Invitation-only summit for 35 college presidents/leaders), June 10, 2013 (Orlando, FL).

[Pending] Presentation, "Recruiting and Retaining Next-Gen Faculty," Higher Learning Commission Annual Convention, April 2013, (Chicago, IL).

Keynote, "Technology, Engagement, and Student Success," International Student Success Seminar, December 12, 2012 (Umm Al Qura University, Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

Keynote, "Next-Generation Faculty: Preparing for Institutional Success," Colorado Community College System, May 21, 2012 (Denver, CO).

Commencement Address, Ubah Medical Academy (Somali charter school), June 8, 2011 (University of Minnesota campus).

Keynote, "The Science of Student Success," Metropolitan Community College, Sept. 1, 2010 (Omaha, NE).

Plenary Speaker, "Voices from the Future," Blandin Foundation Rural Broadband Conference, November 19, 2009 (Duluth, MN).

Keynote Speaker, "Tutoring, Higher Education Trends, and the Future," 3rd Annual Minnesota Tutoring Summit, October 9, 2009 (Anoka, MN).

Featured Speaker, "Changing Your Trajectory," STRIVE Scholarship Awards Event, May 11, 2009 (White Bear Lake, MN).

General Session Presenter, "What if Higher Education Took the Internet Seriously?" 2009 Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting, April 21, 2009 (Chicago, IL).

Co-Presenter, "Leading College Change with GPS LifePlan," Bellwether Finalist Presentation, 2009 Community College Futures Assembly, Bellwether Award Finalist Presentations, January 26, 2009 (Orlando, FL).

Co-Presenter, "Getting Results: Improving Faculty-Student Interaction," NISOD Conference, May 26, 2008 (Austin, TX).

Presenter, "Revolution in the Classroom," Century College Campus Conference (first annual), April 22, 2008 (White Bear Lake, MN).

Co-Presenter, "Student Engagement (CCSSE) Best Practices," Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chief Academic/Student Affairs Officers/Deans Conference, October 29-31, 2007 (Brainerd, MN).

Commencement Speaker, SouthEast Technical College, May 10 and May 11, 2007 (Red Wing and Winona campuses, MN).

Co-Presenter, "Strategic Planning: Best Practices in Developing an Integrated Action Plan," Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference, April 20-24, 2007 (Chicago, IL).

Keynote Presenter, Emerging Student Trends, February 19, 2007, Guam Community College, (Guam, Micronesia).

Presenter, "Emerging Technologies and Student Expectations," Pima Community College, July 31, 2006 (Tucson, AZ).

Keynote Presenter and Workshop Facilitator, "Teaching that Works: Issues in Vocational and Technical Education Instruction," Central Carolina Community College, February 15, 2006 (Raleigh, NC).

Keynote Presenter, 21st Annual League for Innovation Conference on Information Technology, October 26, 2005 (Dallas, TX).

Keynote Presenter [televised public lecture], "The Future of Learning," attended by Japanese provincial legislators, campus leaders, and business/community leaders and media, April 2001 (Akita, Japan).

## Academic Publications

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Book Article, "Milan Kundera: Meaning, Play, Deconstruction, and the Role of the Author," in *Milan Kundera*, ed. Harold Bloom, Broomall, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2003: 113-128.

Book Chapter, "Seeing Through the Opposition: Kundera, Deconstruction, and Feminism: Immortality," in *Critical Essays on Milan Kundera*, ed. Peter Petro, March 1999: 217-231.

Review Article, Review of *Slowness*, *In-Between: Essays and Studies in Literary Criticism* (New Delhi, India), March 1999.

Author/Instructional Designer, developed content for extensive companion website for second edition of Addison Wesley Longman's *Longman Handbook*, including interactive exercises, quizzes, tutorials, and other web-based activities (1999).

Associate Editor, three issues of *Communitas*, a journal of ideas for Minnesota's Community Colleges (1997-2000).

Book Article, "Denis Johnston," in *Modern Irish Writers: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook*, ed. Alexander Gonzalez, Greenwood Press, 1997.

Review Article, "Apocalypse Now?" *Communitas*, Fall 1996.

Book Chapter, "Home-Breaking and Making in the Novels of Elizabeth Jolley," in *Home-Making: Women Writers and the Politics of Home*, eds. Fiona Barnes and Cate Wiley, Garland Publishing, Inc., 1996: 71-82.

Book, *Dangerous Intersection: Milan Kundera and Feminist Literary Criticism* (NY: St. Martin's Press, Inc., 1995), <http://tinyurl.com/a3asgnh>.

Consulting Editor, two book-length manuscripts on Persian culture and literature for Sorayya Publishers (1993-94).

Project Editor, book length academic study of philanthropy supporting racial/ethnic populations for the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (1992-93).

Journal Article, "Milan Kundera: Meaning, Play, Deconstruction, and the Role of the Author," *Critique* 34.1 (Fall 1992): 3-18.

Book Chapter, "Falling into Fiction: Milan Kundera and the Eighteenth-Century English Novel," in *Milan Kundera and the Art of the Novel: Critical Essays*, ed. Aron Aji, New York: Garland Press, 1992: 88-101.

Book Chapter, "Politics and/of Reading: an Empirical Consideration," in *Textuality and Subjectivity: Dialogues Between Language and Being*, Literature, Linguistics, and Culture Series (Vol. 9), S. Carolina: Camden House, 1991: 33-42.

Review, "Immortality," *Minnesota Daily*, 10 July 1991: 10.

Book Chapter, "Myths of Domesticity in the Novels of Elizabeth Jolley," in *Elizabeth Jolley: New Critical Essays*, eds. Delys Bird and Brenda Walker, Australia: Collins Angus and Robertson, division of Harper Collins, 1991: 131-46.

Journal Article, "The Abbey Theatre Saying No," *Journal of Irish Literature*, 20.1 (1991): 18-24.

Journal Article, "Expressionism and the Formative Years: Insights from the Diaries of Denis Johnston," *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* 15.1 (July 1989): 34-57.

Creative Writing, work published occasionally in a number of local and regional literary and arts publications, such as *Hurricane Alice: a Feminist Quarterly* (Summer/Fall 1992): 6.

Poem, "Still Life," published in program for Minnesota AIDS Project benefit performance of the Bach *Mass in B-Minor*, 1987.

### **Academic Presentations**

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Presentation, "Happiness in Depressing Postmodern Literature," *Phi Theta Kappa* induction ceremony, Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN (1999).

Paper, "Milan Kundera and Representation," Midwest American Slavic Association conference, East Lansing, MI (May 1993).

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Paper, "Episodic Aesthetics: Büchner's *Woyzeck*," 16th Annual International German Studies Association conference, Minneapolis, MN (October 1992).

Paper, "Composition Theory and the Teaching of Music," MCTE Conference (National Council of Teachers of English, Minnesota), St. Louis Park, MN (May 1992).

Paper, "Theorizing the Body in Milan Kundera's Novels," 33rd Annual Midwest/MLA conference, Chicago, IL (November 1991).

Session Chair, "The Intrusive Author in Contemporary Fiction," 33rd Annual Midwest/MLA conference (November 1991).

Paper, "Interrogating the Author," 33rd Annual Midwest/MLA conference (November 1991).

Paper, "Text, Subject, Author: Milan Kundera," Annual International Rhetoric Council conference on subjectivity theory, University of California, San Diego (November 1990).

Paper, "The Contemporary Novel in Australia," 32nd Annual Midwest/MLA conference, Kansas City (November 1990).

Paper, "Theoretical Implications of the Intrusive Author," Language and Literature conference, Dana College/Creighton University (April 1990).

Paper, "The Abbey Theatre and International Drama," Irish Literature and Culture conference, University of Notre Dame (March 1990).

Paper, "Waiting for Godot: Violent Content, Violent Form," 10th Annual North American Themes in Drama conference, University of California, Riverside (February 1988).