

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 23, 2013**

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**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present:** Chair Margaret Anderson Kelliher; Trustees Duane Benson, Cheryl Dickson, Dawn Erlandson, Alfredo Oliveira and Louise Sundin.

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Absent:** Maria Peluso

**Other Board Members Present:** Trustees Alexander Cirillo, Clarence Hightower, Philip Krinkie, Thomas Renier and Elise Ristau.

**Leadership Council Representatives Present:** Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Interim Vice Chancellor John O'Brien, Presidents Sue Collins and Earl Potter.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on October 23, 2013 at Wells Fargo Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Paul. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher called the session to order at 11:00 am.

**1. Minutes of May 22, 2013**

*Trustee Dickson moved that the minutes from the May 22, 2013, Academic and Student Affairs Committee be approved as written. Trustee Benson seconded, and the motion carried.*

**2. Minutes of June 19, 2013**

*Trustee Benson moved that the minutes of June 19, 2013 Academic and Student Affairs Committee be approved as written. Trustee Oliveira seconded, and the motion carried.*

**3. Student Demographics Overview**

**Presenters:**

John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs  
Craig Schoenecker, System Director, Research

This overview offered trustees information on system student demographics, including: enrollment trends, predictors of enrollment, student demographic and enrollment characteristics and student financial aid patterns.

A snapshot of 2013 demographic diversity in MnSCU student enrollment shows:

- 58% of students are in greater Minnesota
- 23% are students of color (61,500 students)
- 39 % are 25 or older (the average age is 26)
- 55% of the students are female
- 38% are Pell-Eligible (103,000 students)
- 20% are first generation students (54,000 students)
- 54% are from underrepresented groups (144,000 students)

- 10,650 students are veterans.

There are powerful stories behind these numbers, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Students have more challenges and obstacles to their learning than ever before, including part-time or full-time jobs and families. They often are financing their education by themselves.

Students of color comprise an increasing percentage of system students. Between 2005 and 2013, there was an 83.3% increase in students of color. Almost all the credit enrollment growth in the system the past eight years can be attributed to an increase in students of color, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

The reporting of data on student race and ethnicity has become more complex over time as the student body has become more diverse, System Director Schoenecker said. Students used to identify with one ethnic category; however, federal rules have changes and now students can indicate all ethnic groups with which they identify. The category most impacted by this reporting standard is the American Indian student population. Last year there were 10,000 students in the system who identified themselves as American Indian; however, most of those individuals also identified with another racial category, he said.

Trustee Renier said he would like to see a breakdown of diversity student enrollments by region. System Director Schoenecker said he would provide that.

There also has been a significant increase in the number of students who are considered low income, or eligible for Pell grants. This group of students grew 84% between 2005 and 2013, with the steepest increase between 2009 and 2013.

The age of students is growing more diverse as well, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. It is not uncommon to see students ages 14 to 80 or older in a classroom. The largest age group represented, at 41.4%, is the 19-24 category. Students in the 25-34 age group represent 22.7% of all student and students over and 35 represent 16.2%. Students who are 18 years old or younger comprise 19.2% of all system students.

Students' ability to attend a college or university fulltime has changed over the years. Of all college students in the system, 58% are part-time students, while 34% of university students are enrolled part-time.

Of the college first-time students, 54% will need to take at least one developmental course, while the same is true for 34% of university first-time students. Developmental math courses are the most common courses taken. Chair Anderson Kelliher said she would like to see this data over time and System Director Schoenecker said that could be provided.

When it comes to financing their education, 52% of student who apply for financial aid are considered to be independent of their parents. Some form of financial aid is received by 62% of all students. Of that amount:

- 44% receive grants;
- 9% receive scholarships;
- 44% take out student loans; and
- 3% receive work-study awards or student employment.

System Director Schoenecker said there is some data available on the types and amounts of financial aid offered by the University of Minnesota and private colleges and universities in the state. He said he could provide whatever information is available to the trustees.

He said he also can provide information on work-study financial aid, namely how much represents federal financial aid and how much work-study awards are provided by institutional budgets.

Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said although news reports indicate the average debt load carried by college students is \$29,800, the debt load of MnSCU graduates is much less. The median debt for all graduates with system baccalaureate degrees is \$18,123. For students graduating with an associate's degree, the median debt is \$8,536 and it is \$2,712 for those earning certificates or diplomas.

Between 27.5% and 47% of all MnSCU students graduate with no debt. This figure, which is not reflected in most "average debt" statistics, should be a point of pride for the system, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

Considering the changes in student population, Trustee Benson asked if the system's funding mechanism based on full-year equivalent students is obsolete.

St. Cloud State University President Earl Potter said that colleges and universities currently are not funded to provide the level of support that the current student mix requires. Every part-time student requires the same types of services, such as advising, registration or facilities, as do full-time students. This is a tough problem to tackle, he added, since there is little new money available for higher education.

Trustee Benson since the student base has changed greatly over time, it may be advisable to discuss the student funding mechanism and how to better serve students.

Given the state's financial situation, it might be helpful to provide the Legislature with an analysis on how K-12 students are funded, including students with special needs, compared to the funding allotted to public higher-education students, Trustee Erlandson said.

Trustee Sundin said she has heard over 50 percent of K-12 students now qualify for free and reduced lunch and that figure gives an indication of the economic need of future students enrolling in the system.

Chancellor Rosenstone asked trustees to remember that the growing diversity among students in terms of race, economics and academics means extra effort will be needed in order to ensure they are successful in their higher education pursuits. MnSCU traditionally has enrolled a student body that is underserved by higher education – that's the core of the system's mission.

#### **4. Review of Topics and Emerging Themes for the Year**

The committee reviewed agenda items slated for upcoming meetings. These include several policy changes, as well as one mission change and one college name change.

The full Board will be having a study session with Department of Education Commissioner Cassellius next month to discuss various common issues, including how to ensure that high school graduates are ready for college.

Trustee Sundin said she would like the committee to discuss the collaborative restoration of technical education programs. A shortage of the right technical programs, in K-12 and in the system, will hamper the state's efforts to adequately prepare workers for technical jobs of the future, she said.

The system's e-education strategy, transfer program, charting the future discussions and the system's brand identity are other topics which will be considered by the committee in future months.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Takash, Recorder