

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2014**

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

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

Leadership Council Representatives Present: Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Interim Vice Chancellor John O'Brien.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on January 22, 2014 at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher called the session to order at 9:02 am.

1. Minutes of Update on the Itasca Workforce Alignment Group, November 20, 2013

Trustee Benson moved that the minutes from the Nov. 20, 2013 update on the Itasca Workforce Alignment Group meeting be approved as written. Trustee Sundin seconded and the motion carried.

2. Minutes of Meeting of November 20, 2013

Trustee Benson moved that the minutes from the Nov. 20, 2013 meeting be approved as written. Trustee Oliveira seconded and the motion carried.

3. Pine Technical College – Change in Institution Type and Name Change (Second Reading)

Presenters:

John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Robert Musgrove, President, Pine Technical College

This was the second reading of Pine Technical College's request for a mission change to become a comprehensive technical and community college. The college also is requesting a change in name to Pine Technical and Community College.

If the Board of Trustees approves the mission change, students at Pine Technical College would be able to complete an Associate in Arts (AA) degree.

The Pine Technical College service area remains well below state averages in bachelor's degree attainment and that deficit ultimately results in lower incomes, greater levels of poverty and higher rates of unemployment than the rest of Minnesota and Wisconsin, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

As for facilities, the college has demonstrated that there is substantial room for growth to accommodate the classroom-based courses taught in the AA degree. Past attempts to partner with other colleges to offer the AA degree on the Pine City campus have proven to be unworkable for students.

The mission change also will allow undecided students to enter Pine Technical College with a declared AA major and be eligible for financial aid. This means they can maintain eligibility for financial aid while exploring degree and career options, including those in technical areas.

The mission change is supported by other internal and external stakeholders, including students, college leaders, area school boards, city and county governments, as well as employers in the area, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

Pine Technical College's history, heritage and culture are centered on technical education and will continue to be, even if the mission is changed, President Musgrove told the Trustees.

Trustee Dickson said she endorses the mission change, since this part of the state has been underserved. People in Chisago and Pine counties will be pleased with this action, she said.

Trustee Benson made a motion that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the change in institution type and corresponding mission proposed by Pine Technical College. Trustee Dickson seconded and the motion carried.

Trustee Benson made a motion that upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees change the name of Pine Technical College to Pine Technical and Community College. Trustee Dickson seconded and the motion carried.

4. Mesabi Range Community & Technical College: Proposed Name Change

Presenter:

Carol Helland, Interim Provost, Mesabi Range Community & Technical College

Mesabi Range Community & Technical College is proposing to change its name to Mesabi Range College. The name change is strongly supported by internal and external college stakeholders, Interim Provost Helland said. The college is commonly referred to as Mesabi Range College by various constituent groups within the region and market research has shown support for a formal name change.

Community preference is a major factor in a name change, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said. Provost Helland said her community prefers the shorter name. She added the new name better reflects her college's mission as a comprehensive college offering both technical and liberal arts programs, as well as new university programs now on the Virginia campus.

Trustee Dickson moved that upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees change the name of Mesabi Range Community & Technical College to Mesabi Range College. Trustee Erlandson seconded and the motion carried.

5. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.2 State Residency (First Reading)

Presenter:

Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Policy

The Prosperity Act passed by the state legislature in 2013 provides that students who meet certain requirements shall be charged resident tuition at state colleges and universities. This legislation requires that current Board policy on resident tuition be amended to accommodate the additional students who qualify for resident tuition.

Associate Vice Chancellor Mercer said the amendment has been reviewed by bargaining unions, students, campus administrators and the system's Academic Affairs Policy Council.

Trustee Benson asked for a clarification of "high school" in Part 4, Subpart A, number 6. He said it is unclear if "high school" in this reference means grades 7-12 or just grades 9-12.

The amendment will come before the board for a second reading in March.

6. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.36 Academic Programs (First Reading)

Presenter:

Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Policy

Associate Vice Chancellor Mercer said the policy pertaining to Academic Programs was reviewed as part of the annual policy review cycle. Suggested revisions in this policy include:

- In Part 2, revise the definition of "credit." A revision of the definition of "credit" would place less emphasis on instructional time and incorporate new language on student learning outcomes.
- In Part 7, delete language regarding annual academic program review summary reports to the chancellor. Deletion of this language would reduce the reporting burden on colleges and universities. A requirement for colleges and universities to regularly review programs would continue without change.

7. Proposed New Policy 3.40 Recognition of Veteran Status (First Reading)

Presenter:

Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Policy

The proposed new policy establishes a requirement that state universities establish local policies to recognize veteran status as a positive factor in the admission decisions made by graduate and professional programs. The policy also requires that universities maintain records on the number of veterans who apply and the number accepted to graduate and professional programs so that this information may be reported to the Legislature.

Chair Anderson Kelliher noted that this is the last meeting which will be staffed by Associate Vice Chancellor Mercer, who is retiring Feb. 7, 2014. Chair Anderson Kelliher thanked her for her many years of service. Associate Vice Chancellor Mercer said it has been a joy and privilege to have a career in higher education.

8. Meeting the Baccalaureate Needs of the Twin Cities Metro Area

Presenters:

John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Policy

Over the next three decades, the Twin Cities area population will increase by nearly 1 million people and it's estimated over 400,000 jobs will be created. Many of those jobs will need to be filled by someone who has a baccalaureate degree.

Currently, the system has significant capacity to serve two-year college students in the metro area, but there is a great need to better serve students interested in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

In June 2009, the Board of Trustees discussed a Metropolitan Area Planning Report which suggested two broad strategies be adopted to increase baccalaureate education in the metro area:

- Strengthen Metropolitan State University, working to increase its capacity to serve students in selected programs.
- Encourage other state universities to provide more upper-division programming at metropolitan two-year colleges.

The success of the Metropolitan State University model has been limited for various reasons, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said:

- The growth of the St. Paul campus is limited because of few land development options.
- While Metropolitan State University has a strong track record of reaching underserved and adult student populations, the university is less successful in reaching student populations attracted to other types of universities.
- Metropolitan State University does not have academic programs in several key workforce areas: chemistry, cognitive science, biochemistry, physics, statistics, engineering and world languages.

Although the enrollment at Metropolitan State University has grown by 20 percent and the number of degrees conferred is up by 38 percent since 2008, it appears expanding the university cannot be the exclusive approach taken to meet the growing student and workforce needs in the metropolitan area, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

While the bilateral partnership model has been successful in increasing baccalaureate opportunities in the metropolitan area, it also has limitations:

- It is based solely on institution initiative, not on system response.
- These partnerships have provided students access to a very limited number of baccalaureate programs, not a broad array of offerings.
- Only 209 full-year equivalent (FYE) students enrolled in the non-metropolitan state baccalaureate programs in FY12.
- The partnership model does not leverage collective resources or the creative capacity of university faculty across the system.

Following the June presentation to the Board of Trustees, consultation on a metropolitan baccalaureate strategy was conducted with various groups, including union groups, chief academic and student affairs officers, student organizations and the Leadership Council.

Four options as a way to increase baccalaureate educational opportunities in the metropolitan area were presented. He noted these options are not mutually exclusive and a combination of two or more might be needed.

- **Option 1: Academic Centers**

Academic centers would be open to all system institutions, allowing them to offer an array of programs and support services. They would be housed in leased space in locations where there is high student demand and easy access to public transportation and would utilize smart classrooms and deliver classes face-to-face, online and a blending of both.

Programming at the centers could focus on six high-demand areas:

- Health/life sciences
- Business and business services
- Food and agribusiness
- Information and communication technology
- Financial services and insurance
- Advanced manufacturing and energy

Curriculum could be jointly developed by college and university faculty to the largest extent possible. The curriculum would have an experiential focus and have competency-driven outcomes. Business and industry could have an advisory role and curriculum should align with K-12 career technical education to ensure it meets workforce needs.

- **Option 2: Grow Metropolitan State University**

This option would have the system significantly expanding Metropolitan State University's baccalaureate capacity. Targeted high-growth, high-impact program areas could be developed. An additional location near light rail or public transportation could be part of this plan.

- **Option 3: Transform an existing metro college into a branch campus of an existing system university**

The focus of this option would be building on two-year program offerings and strengths. It could start with one campus; additional campuses could be added, with each college offering specialized, focused programs.

- **Option 4: Authorize two-year metro colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees**

Twenty-two states are implementing this at some level. The focus would be on new programs, not competition with existing offerings. This option would involve legislative, mission and accreditation changes and there may be union issues.

The creation of a new university in the metropolitan area was ruled out as an option because of the cost, potential unnecessary duplication and probable political hurdles, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said.

Additional tactics which should also be considered as part of the metropolitan baccalaureate strategy include:

- Aggressive marketing of MnSCU's metropolitan campuses;
- Bold naming strategies to raise awareness and coordinate branding;
- Cross-listing of all metro area offerings available to metro area students.

Trustee Oliveira said he likes the idea of a downtown university site or academic center. He said he also likes enhancing system branding through the use of bold naming strategies.

Board Chair Hightower said he would be better able to assess the options if there were more information about the capacity each option would offer to the system and how each would meet the challenges of the need for increased baccalaureate programming.

It is hard to estimate, Interim Vice Chancellor O'Brien said, but a conservative projection would be that through the implementation of academic centers, by 2024 the system could increase the number of baccalaureate degrees conferred in the metropolitan area by 1,700.

He added that the metropolitan baccalaureate strategy must not only focus on attracting new students, but also on ways to ensure current students complete their degrees.

Trustee Sundin said she is disappointed that the new university option was taken off the table. Academic Centers don't offer an urban identity, she said, and full expansion of Metropolitan State University should be part of the solution, but probably can't be the only way for the system to meet the urgent need for more baccalaureate education. She added she likes option 3, transforming an existing metro college into a branch campus of an existing system university.

The system needs to fill a niche other colleges and universities are not currently filling in the metropolitan area, Trustee Erlandson said. Locations should be geographically balanced, she added.

Board Chair Hightower said he is excited about option 2, which involves growing Metropolitan State University. But he added he does not want to see the new university option be taken off the table at this time.

Based on the number of Trustees who indicated an interest in a new university option, Chair Anderson Kelliher said that option should be included in future discussions.

Trustees must not lose sight of the base reason for higher education and not get too focused on only graduating students to meet workforce needs, Trustee Benson said. The system needs to focus on graduating well-rounded students who can read, write and communicate well. Those are the types of people employers have consistently said they need, he said.

Trustee Dickson agreed. The system needs to focus on providing an affordable, extraordinary educational experience to students, not merely channeling people into workforce slots. Pressures of workforce should not move the system into a mode where it is only training people for jobs, rather than educating people for life, she said.

Chair Anderson Kelliher said the system needs to blend these educational goals. Students need to be provided with an education that prepares them to be successful in the workforce, while also allowing them to become well-rounded individuals. These goals should not be separated, she said.

Consultation and planning on the metropolitan baccalaureates will continue over the next months. It is likely to be included in the discussions on implementation of the Charting the Future plan.

Chancellor Rosenstone added that developing a plan for increased baccalaureate education in the metropolitan area will be integral to the future success of the system. MnSCU is uniquely situated to meet the higher education needs of the growing metropolitan population, he said.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder