

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDY SESSION
CHARTING THE FUTURE FOR A PROSPEROUS MINNESOTA
JUNE 16, 2015
McCORMICK ROOM
30 7TH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL, MN**

Present: Chair Thomas Renier, and Trustees Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Duane Benson, Kelly Charpentier-Berg, Alexander Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Robert Hoffman, Philip Krinkie, Maleah Otterson, Elise Ristau, Louise Sundin, Michael Vekich, and Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

Absent: Trustees Ann Anaya and Erma Vizenor

Convene and Introduction

Chair Renier convened the study session on *Charting the Future for a Prosperous Minnesota* at 2:40 pm.

He summarized the progress made since *Charting the Future* was launched in 2012 with three workgroups addressing the topics of education of the future, workforce of the future, and system of the future. Over 5,000 students, faculty, and staff provided input into what became the six recommendations that have guided the work ever since. The board endorsed the recommendations in 2013. In 2014, more than 170 students, faculty, and staff began serving on the eight campus-led implementation teams, the organizational capability team, and the Steering Committee to develop the strategies needed to implement the six recommendations. Over 700 team meetings have been held since teams launched last May. Over 8,700 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the Gallery Walks this past fall and spring to learn about the ideas their colleagues had come up with and to offer feedback.

From the beginning, the board realized that changing the way 31 colleges and universities work together was going to be challenging. The board understood that *Charting the Future* is the roadmap that will allow us to continue providing an extraordinary education to our students and deliver on our commitments to the people of Minnesota. The board remains steadfastly committed to this process.

Chancellor Rosenstone's Comments

Chancellor Rosenstone recalled Chair Renier's words from last September's board retreat: "From the beginning, the members of the board realized that *Charting the Future* was going to be anything but easy." It has not been easy; in fact, it has been harder than any of us ever dreamed. We set out with the idea that if we got the right people working to develop implementation strategies, and if we got out of their way, and trusted them to do the work, the work would get done. And despite how hard it has been, the work is brilliant.

Chancellor Rosenstone reminded the board that in March, he shared with the trustees how energized he was after spending time with the 125 team members who attended the *Charting the Future* All-Teams Summit. Attendees were surveyed about the work they have done on the teams. They were asked, “Why is the work of *Charting the Future* important?” Team members said it’s important because:

“It recognizes that the change happening all around higher education requires a plan!”

“It has brought many different parts of this very large system into a robust dialogue of how we can better serve students.”

“It shows that when you come together by collaborating and sharing ideas, great things can happen.”

Teams were asked, “How will the work of your team benefit students?”

“It will break down barriers that have hindered student success.”

“It’s not about the institutions, it’s about the students.”

“If our students succeed, we all succeed.”

Asked, “What is your hope for the future?” – team members said:

“I hope for a change from the me attitude to the we attitude.”

“My hope is that the system can actually function like a system.”

“I hope for a higher education system where students spend more time in places of discovery and achievement, and less time figuring out how to pay for or complete college.”

Chancellor Rosenstone noted that his favorite comment from the survey was this:

“The CTF Summit was an amazing experience and probably the most enjoyable two days I have ever spent at a systemwide meeting.”

These responses reveal that members of the implementation teams can articulate better than anyone else the promise of *Charting the Future*.

Chancellor Rosenstone introduced Jaime Simonsen, system director. Director Simonsen offered her thanks to Chancellor Rosenstone for his unwavering support of the teams; to the many people who have been a part of this effort; to the conveners and the organizational capability team for their continued enthusiasm, dedication, and humor. She shared that it has been a busy year – kicking off eight implementation teams and hosting Gallery Walks during the fall and spring semesters. The Gallery Walks were the right way to engage students, faculty, staff, and community members at the colleges and universities. Director Simonsen thanked all of the campus contacts and the marketing staff who made each campus event possible and she thanked the Engagement Team, Erin Edlund, Mary Jacobson, and Carmen Shields.

As Chancellor Rosenstone noted, in late February of this year, 125 team members gathered together for the *Charting the Future* All-Teams Summit, an idea that was brought forward from the Systems Incentives and Rewards Team. In the next few weeks, the implementation teams will wrap-up their work and turn in their team reports, which will showcase a year's worth of hard work and the best ideas to help our students, our colleges, and universities.

Director Simonsen explained that although it was not possible to have all the team members in the room, members of the eight implementation teams – four of which began meeting in the spring of 2014, the other four of which began meeting in the fall of 2014 – were present to share their experiences.

The following members addressed the board and spoke favorably of their experiences in serving on their teams

- Ambrosia Harkins, a member of the Student Success Team and a graduate of St. Cloud Technical and Community College. Currently enrolled at Winona State University.
- Will Tully, a member of the Diversity Team and a graduate of Minneapolis Community and Technical College.
- Michelle Schmitz, a member of the Comprehensive Workplace Solutions Team and interim director of the Career Services Center at St. Cloud State University.
- Richard Straka, a member of the System Incentives and Rewards Team and vice president for finance and administration at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- Arlene Boland, a member of the Academic Planning and Collaboration Team and a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- Robert Lowe, a member of the Competency Certification and Credit for Prior Learning Team and director of Perkins and Dual Enrollment at Normandale Community College.
- Matt Rubel, a member of the Education Technology Team and a student at Metropolitan State University.
- Anna Olson, a member of the Information Technology Systems Design Team and associate registrar at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.
- Cassandra Spruit, a member of the Information Technology Systems Design Team and a student at St. Cloud State University.
- Jim Anderson, a member of the System Incentive and Reward Team and assistant director of admissions at Minnesota State University Moorhead.
- Kevin Parker, a member of the Comprehensive Workplace Solutions Team and a student at Anoka-Ramsey Community College.
- Jessica Shryack, a member of the Systems Incentives and Rewards Team and director of Quality Initiatives at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Director Simonsen thanked the speakers. She introduced Adam Klepetar, co-chair of the *Charting the Future* Steering Committee, and Ron Anderson, president of Century College, co-chair of the Leadership Council and also a member of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Klepetar commented that the work of the Steering Committee has ended and that the Coordinating Committee will begin meeting in the fall. There is a commitment to move forward as leaders to support and engage our students, our faculty, and our staff. Campus-led teams will be formalized and members will attend a two-day workshop in August that will provide training on project management and change leadership.

President Anderson added that great strides have been made in moving the initiatives forward. In July and August, the Leadership Council will engage in discussion about the team initiatives and begin to identify those top priorities that will make a difference for students and for our colleges and universities. The leaders of the bargaining units and student associations have been invited to the Leadership Council retreat in September. This is an opportunity to bring together individuals from across the system to learn ways that we can move forward together.

Closing Comments

Chancellor Rosenstone thanked everyone for the work they have done this past year. He concluded with one final comment that surfaced in the *Charting the Future* Summit survey. As the process moves to implementation on our campuses, there's much more to be done. One team member urged: "Please don't stop now. Students are depending on us and need us to make the necessary changes."

Chair Renier commented that he has never been more impressed and inspired by the work of the students, faculty, staff, and presidents who have given their time and talents to this critical endeavor. He thanked everyone who spoke about their teams. He also thanked all those who served on a team or on the Steering Committee, and he recognized those who have been part of this process since its inception, including:

- Members of the three working groups that drafted the six recommendations.
- Thousands of students, faculty, and staff who participated in feedback sessions across the state.
- Thousands of students, faculty, and staff who attended Gallery Walks to provide feedback on the ideas that have come out of the implementation teams.

Chair Renier thanked Jaime Simonsen, who has proven to be a master at thinking through a monumental undertaking like *Charting the Future* and determining the kind of support system that would be needed to sustain it. Director Simonson did an outstanding job of solving problems. Finally, Chair Renier said that today's session has reminded him of what Chancellor Rosenstone said at his installation ceremony nearly four years ago: "In today's world, no person, no organization, no single college or university can accomplish alone what needs to be done. We must work together." Those words helped us see that if we wanted to continue meeting our commitments to Minnesota, our colleges and universities would have to collaborate on a never-before-seen scale. And that's exactly what we have done.

Chair Renier thanked Chancellor Rosenstone and adjourned the study session at 3:46 pm.