



**MINNESOTA STATE**

Board of Trustees

30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

651-201-1705

Executive Committee  
Wednesday, April 5, 2017  
8:00 AM  
Minnesota State  
Third Floor, Conference Room 3310  
30 7<sup>th</sup> Street East, St. Paul, Minnesota

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*In addition to board members attending in person, additional board members may participate by telephone.*

1. Call to Order
2. **Minutes of March 8, 2017**
3. Chair's Updates
4. Training Session Follow-up: Election of Officers
5. Adjournment

Committee Members:

Michael Vekich, Chair  
Dawn Erlandson, Vice Chair  
Jay Cowles, Treasurer  
Elise Bourdeau  
Alexander Cirillo  
Robert Hoffman

**BOLD denotes action item**



*Minnesota State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.*

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2017**

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**Executive Committee Members Present:** Chair Michael Vekich, Trustees Elise Bourdeau, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, and Bob Hoffman

**Others Present:** Trustees Basil Ajuo, Rudy Rodriguez, Louise Sundin, and Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

**Convene and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM. Trustees Rodriguez and Sundin participated by phone. There were no additions to the agenda.

**Chair Updates**

George Soule was appointed to the Board of Trustees on February 27, 2017. His appointment fills the last vacant seat. It is set to end on June 30, 2018. Trustee Soule was the chair of the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee. Chair Vekich has appointed him to serve on the Audit; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Human Resources Committees.

**Draft Board of Trustees Charter**

General Counsel Gary Cunningham reviewed the draft charter for the board. The charter has a purpose statement, describes the board structure, and its aspirations and goals. It is similar to the charters for the standing committees that the board approved in March 2016.

Chair Vekich called for a motion to approve the board charter.

**A motion was made by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Bourdeau and carried to approve the board charter.**

The charter will be added to the Consent Agenda for approval at the March board meeting. Chair Vekich asked Trustees Anaya and Rodriguez, chair and vice chair respectively of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, to draft a charter for that committee.

**Transition Update**

Associate Vice Chancellor Phil Davis reported that there has been frequent communication with Chancellor-designate Malhotra. In addition to Associate Vice Chancellor Davis, the members of the Transition Team are Senior Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson, Vice Chancellors Mark Carlson and Laura King, Presidents Connie Gores, and Barbara McDonald, and Chief of Staff Nancy Joyer. The team will have its first meeting on March 20. The focus is to plan for what happens between now and August 1 so that there is a smooth process for access and communication with the interim chancellor. Chancellor-designate Malhotra will be here the week of April 3. He will meet with the transition team.

Chancellor Rosenstone explained that the transition team is an advisory team to the interim chancellor. In his experience, it was extremely helpful to know who to connect with for counsel and what to prepare for. Chancellor-designate Malhotra reviewed the charter of the advisory committee. The transition team is a resource for him, and it is up to him on how to use it. Chancellor Rosenstone added that numerous documents including a calendar of what to expect and to help him stage what to do first were given to the interim chancellor. Chancellor Rosenstone commented that at his first meeting with Chancellor-designate Malhotra, both agreed that there is only one chancellor/administration at a time, and we are committed to honoring it. Chancellor Rosenstone thanked Associate Vice Chancellor Davis and Chief of Staff Joyer for their work on the documents. Chancellor Rosenstone also thanked Executive Assistant Vicki Tschida for supporting the transition team. Ms. Tschida supported the transitions for Chancellor Rosenstone and former Chancellor McCormick.

### **Additional Items**

Chancellor Rosenstone reported that one of the first items on the interim chancellor's list is the search for a chief diversity officer. Under the interim chancellor's direction, Vice Chancellor Carlson and Chief of Staff Joyer are helping to move this process along as the goal is to have someone in place no later than August 1.

Interim Chief Diversity Officer Nickyia Cogshell assisted in developing a new position description. Toyia Younger, the former associate vice chancellor for student affairs and interim chief diversity officer, consulted with the campus chief diversity officers on their thoughts for the position. The feedback included:

- 1) the position needs to be focused on changing outcomes; such as campus climate, diversity of faculty and staff and retention, student success and closing the achievement gap;
- 2) partnership – to be successful, this position cannot operate as a silo; it has to be integrated to work with Academic and Student Affairs and Human Resources;
- 3) the chief diversity officer has to understand how to lead change in a large complex organization.

Currently, the position description reflects these three insights. The final position description is up to the interim chancellor.

Trustee Erlandson and other trustees recommended that the search consider candidates outside of higher education because there are not a lot of people within the academy who have led diversity change in systems. There are many large complex organizations that have worked on diversity issues. Chancellor Rosenstone added that Interim Chief Diversity Officer Nickyia Cogshell is already developing better strategies by working with Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson and Vice Chancellor Carlson to drive change.

There was a discussion regarding Dakota County Technical College's interest in adding four-year degrees.

Vice Chancellor King gave an update on the legislative session. The first committee deadline is March 10. In May, the Finance and Facilities Committee will see an overall picture of trends and what to expect. Campus budgets will be presented to the board in June. The FY18 bonding proposal is due to Minnesota Management and Budget in June.

Chancellor Rosenstone commented that Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson and his staff have been testifying at the legislature on concurrent enrollment. The Academic and Student Affairs unit has also been heavily involved in the work related to Charting the Future. Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson is also thinking of ways academic and student affairs integrate and interact with the chief diversity officer position in its work in the system office and at the campus-level.

About 300 people attended the Student Affairs and Equity and Inclusion Conference a couple of weeks ago. With the United State's president's executive orders, campus climate issues were discussed. They focused on what is happening on campus, and what students, faculty, and staff are experiencing. Chancellor Rosenstone said that Mayor Dave Kleis of St. Cloud attended the meeting and told the story of how the campus and community came together after the tragic incident at the mall in St. Cloud last year. A suggestion was made for Mayor Kleis to meet with mayors from other cities where our campuses are located and to share what happened in St. Cloud where the community and campus collaboratively worked together.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned 9:00 AM.