

**MINNESOTA STATE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

ACTION SHEET

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

It is anticipated that Chancellor Malhotra will recommend Ross Berndt for the Interim Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Systems.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION

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

RECOMMENDED BOARD MOTION

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Ross Berndt as Interim Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Systems, effective October 22, 2020, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Human Resources Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Date of Adoption: October 21, 2020

Date of Implementation: October 22, 2020

Ross H. Berndt

SYNOPSIS:

Years of diversified and extensive experience in higher education enterprise administrative information systems including 30 colleges, 7 universities, and 54 campuses. This experience provides demonstrable proficiency in the architecture and development of automated systems in the areas of student information, fiscal accounting, personnel record keeping, and support for instructional computing. Specific expertise and experiences include the following: managerial, technical, application systems, development, procurement bid specifications, project management, budget development (as related to information services and automated systems planning), data center management, data communications, hardware and software implementations, help/service desk management, and facilities planning for a centralized computing facility responsible for twenty-one college sites. During this time, I have served and held office on many statewide and regional higher education advisory boards.

EMPLOYMENT:

2015 – Present	Associate Vice Chancellor, Deputy Chief Information Officer - Minnesota State
1998 - 2015	System Director - Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU)
2013 - 2014	Interim Vice President for Technology – Metropolitan State University
2012 - 2013	Interim Chief Information Office – Normandale Community College
1989 - 1998	Manager - Minnesota Community Colleges Computer Operations Center
1986 - 1989	Supervisor - Aspen Medical Group, Computer Operations and Infrastructure
1981 - 1986	Shift Supervisor - Coast-to-Coast Hardware, System Office Operations Center

EXPERIENCE/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Administer management responsibilities for all production Enterprise Services, System Managers and Technical Services, Computer Operations, Production Control, Quality Control, and Change Management.
- Provided direction and oversight for the Minnesota State cloud first initiative.
- Assist the Vice Chancellor, Chief Information Officer with major contributions in developing tactical and strategic plans.
- Provided oversight of the Office365 Unified Tenant containing 37 institutions that serve over 400,000 students while maintaining their individual campus identities. This service follows a true shared service model and is managed and maintained in partnership with the System Office and campus staff participating together in the day-to-day governance and operations.
- Development of, and administering to, the Information Technology Services, Infrastructure and Operations fiscal year operating budget of approximately \$11.5 million.
- Assisted with the architecture of higher education application systems in support of college administrative services.
- Directed the implementation of Managed Administrative Computing Services to collaboratively work together in support of the campus infrastructure to ensure a secure and highly supported environment.
- Directed the relocation of an on-premise data center to a new location ahead of schedule and under budget without any downtime to mission critical services.
- Assist the Chief Information Security Officer in providing and fostering a risk-conscious culture and collaborating to ensure a safe and secure infrastructure.
- Oversee the administration of hardware/software maintenance contracts, cloud services, and system life cycle.

- Assisted with the implementation of comprehensive bid specifications and coordinating the procurement process for equipment, software, professional services, and general commodities.
- Integral in the Voice over IP (VoIP) project for the System Office with savings in excess of \$55,000 annually.
- Strong understanding and expertise in technology architecture and design.
- Expertise in project and program management.
- Worked to improve overall ITS business analysis and process improvement.
- Planning, design, and implementation of a disaster recovery and business continuity strategy.
- Member of the Technical Architecture Group (TAG) responsible for the establishment of enterprise architecture standards.
- Represented the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities with State of Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technologies, Statewide IT Service Management (ITSM) selection project.
- Working knowledge of Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) practices.
- Implemented service level targets based upon a criticality matrix.
- Implemented file encryption devices and processes to improve security.
- Directed the oversight of the tiger teams to include campus collaboration and work on system initiatives such as Office365 Unified Communications and hardware device management.
- Planned and implemented the smart conference room environment in use at all system office sites.
- Assisted with the oversight of the successful enterprise Exadata implementation.
- Worked to encourage our employees to acquire new or advanced skills, knowledge, and viewpoints in support of our mission.

EDUCATION:

Augsburg College – Bachelor of Science Degree
 Northeast Metro Technical College, Fire Fighter I & II
 Northeast Metro Technical College, Emergency Medical Technician
 Saint Paul Technical College, COBOL I & II
 White Bear Mariner High School

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Member Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) – Advisory Committee
 Member Microsoft Higher Education Advisory Council
 Member of the Minnesota IT service Management (ItSMF)
 Volunteer youth leader – Christ the King Church
 Volunteer Fire Fighter, Rescue Captain – Retired
 Vice President of Fire Relief Association