

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2015

Present: Chair Thomas Renier, Trustees Ann Anaya, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Duane Benson, Kelly Charpentier-Berg, John Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Robert Hoffman, Maleah Otterson, Elise Ristau, Louise Sundin, Erma Vizenor, Michael Vekich, and Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

Absent: Trustees Alexander Cirillo and Philip Krinkie

1. Call to Order

Chair Renier called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM and announced that a quorum was present. Trustee Anaya participated by phone.

2. Chair's Report: *Thomas Renier*

(1) Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting on November 19, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

(2) Other

Chair Renier made the following statement:

I would like to thank the trustees who attended or participated in a number of events in recent weeks on behalf of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Several of us attended the Minnesota Chamber Annual Dinner on January 7. Thank you to the trustees who attended and special thanks to our presidents and communities that hosted us. As someone who has attended the annual dinner for many years, it was another reminder how special our friend and colleague David Olson was to the State of Minnesota.

Several trustees also attended the Minnesota State College Student Association's Annual Scholarship Gala on January 9. From all accounts, it sounds like it was a very successful event, honoring student scholarship winners and raising funds for future scholarships. Thank you to the trustees who attended.

At yesterday's House Capital Investment Committee hearing, Trustee Ristau joined Chancellor Rosenstone and Associate Vice Chancellor Brian Yolitz in a presentation on MnSCU's bonding request. I would like to thank Trustee Ristau as well as Trustees Anderson Kelliher and Otterson who attended the hearing.

On Wednesday of last week, the House Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee had the opportunity to see and hear an overview of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The hearing was held in the carpentry lab at Saint Paul College, a venue that gave the representatives a first-hand look at what many of our campuses mean to students.

The audience included faculty, staff, and students from Saint Paul College and presidents from many of our campuses. The hearing was viewed by faculty, staff, and students on all of our colleges and universities via the web. My thanks to trustees who attended: Margaret Anderson-Kelliher, who was a central part of the presentation, Kelly Charpentier-Berg, Jay Cowles, and Philip Krinkie. The committee noted our presence.

Vice Chair Anderson Kelliher and I spoke on behalf of the board, and we were joined by Chancellor Rosenstone and two amazing students – Ivan Martinez of MSU, Mankato; and Heather Christopher of Normandale Community College – who shared the powerful ways their lives have been changed by affordable higher education and dedicated faculty and staff. The committee asked excellent questions that allowed us to provide even more information about the work our colleges and universities do for our students and for the communities we serve. I was very proud of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Yesterday, Governor Dayton released his budget recommendations, which included a very strong statement about the importance of our colleges and universities to Minnesota. But the governor's budget does not recommend new funding for MnSCU at this time. In response, MnSCU, the Inter Faculty Organization, and the Minnesota State College Faculty released the following statement:

"We take the governor's decision not to recommend new funding for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) at this time very seriously and we appreciate the governor's commitment to supporting MnSCU and its vital mission of ensuring access to an affordable, high value education for all Minnesotans and meeting the workforce needs of Minnesota."

"We understand and share the governor's concerns and are taking positive steps and having substantive dialogue to resolve our disagreements regarding Charting the Future. We are all committed to progress continuing and are confident of a positive outcome. All MnSCU faculty and staff have a passionate commitment to improving the lives of our students through education and look forward to working with the governor on a budget that ultimately meets the needs of our students' and the State of Minnesota."

3. Chancellor's Report: *Steven Rosenstone*

Chancellor Rosenstone made the following statement:

Regarding Governor Dayton's budget recommendation, I would like to add that we understand and share the governor's concerns. We are encouraged by yesterday's joint statement and by the ongoing meetings that board members have had with IFO and MSCF leadership. I have been in conversation with our presidents, bargaining units, and student associations and it is clear that we all stand behind the board's biennial budget proposal.

The requested funding will protect programs in demand so we can serve students and meet the workforce needs of Minnesota to enable us to keep the talented faculty and staff required to deliver these programs; and protect affordability to ensure access for all Minnesotans.

The news of Governor Dayton's budget recommendation came on the heels of a very positive reception of our overview at the House Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee. I am confident that the representatives left the Saint Paul College carpentry lab with a much deeper understanding of who we are, the students we serve, the challenges facing Minnesota, our commitment to meeting our state's workforce needs, and new ways in which we are working together to be more affordable, efficient, and effective.

Representatives heard that we are ready to work together with them to solve two puzzles. First, how do we protect the programs that are essential to serving our students and serving regions across Minnesota – programs that allow students to be prepared for their prosperity, the prosperity of their communities, and the prosperity of the state? And second, how do we continue to push to protect affordability?

The most important thing the committee heard was that everything we do comes back to one thing – serving our students. One way we serve our students is by encouraging them to think big, and to celebrate them when thinking big brings them even bigger success. You have heard me on many occasions talk about the fabulous creativity of our students, faculty, and staff. Today I would like to share some really good news about a few of our students.

Every year, the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) sponsor the DECA Idea Challenge, a global competition that dares elementary, secondary and college students to find an innovative new use for a common, everyday item. It's an opportunity for students to be creative and innovative while learning about entrepreneurship.

This year, the Idea Challenge asked competitors to come up with a new use for newspaper that would create value while being feasible and sustainable. More than 6,000 students on 1,700 teams from around the world entered the competition, including two South Central College marketing management students: Jake Ward and Landon Brown, with help from Minnesota State University, Mankato, student Laken Fennern. The team submitted their idea for turning newspaper into an eco-friendly packing material that can replace non-biodegradable packaging.

I am pleased to announce that the South Central team not only made it to the final six of the 1,700 teams, including teams from Canada, South Korea, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and of course, North Mankato. The best news of all is that our North Mankato South Central College team beat every one of the other teams in the world to become the DECA Idea Challenge global champions. Congratulations to everyone involved.

In other student news, MnSCU hockey teams Bemidji State University and Minnesota State University, Mankato faced two teams from another Minnesota university system in the North Star College Cup. Going into the tournament, MSU, Mankato, was the #1 ranked NCAA Division I hockey team in the nation.

After defeating their rivals, Bemidji State and MSU, Mankato, faced off. Bemidji State took first place and MSU, Mankato, took second. Congratulations to the students, faculty, and staff of both universities.

4. Consent Agenda

- (1) **Minnesota State University, Mankato Approval for Guaranteed Energy Savings Program Contract Exceeding \$1 Million**
- (2) **St. Cloud Technical and Community College Approval for Building Renovation Contract Exceeding \$1 Million**
- (3) **Minnesota State College Moorhead Approval for Athletic Field Improvement Contract Exceeding \$1 Million**

Chair Renier moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried.

5. Board Policy Decisions

- (1) **Proposed Amendment to Policy 1B.1 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education (Second Reading)**

Chair Renier called the question on the following motion that was approved by the Diversity and Equity Committee.

The Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to Board Policy 1B.1 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education. The motion carried.

- (2) **Proposed Amendments to Policy 7.3 Financial Administration (Second Reading)**

Chair Renier called the question on the following motion that was approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

The Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to Board Policy 7.3 Financial Administration. The motion carried.

- (3) **Proposed Amendments to Policy 7.5 Financial Institutions and Investments (Second Reading)**

Chair Renier called the question on the following motion that was approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

The Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to Board Policy 7.5 Financial Institutions and Investments. The motion carried.

6. Board Standing Committee Reports

a. Audit Committee, Philip Krinkie, Chair

Committee Vice Chair Benson reported on the Audit Committee Meeting in the absence of Committee Chair Krinkie.

- (1) **CliftonLarsonAllen Engagement Partner Transition**

Committee Vice Chair Benson reported that the Audit Committee heard from Don Loberg, CliftonLarsonAllen. He is the new system engagement partner following the retirement of Tom Koop, who served in that capacity for many years.

- (2) Review Results of Metropolitan State University Special Review of Employee Payroll

Committee Vice Chair Benson reported that the committee heard a presentation on the results of Metropolitan State University review of employee payroll.

b. Diversity and Equity Committee, Ann Anaya, Chair

Committee Vice Chair Ristau reported on the Diversity and Equity Committee meeting in the absence of Committee Chair Anaya.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee, Michael Vekich, Chair

- (1) Proposed Amendment to Policy 7.1 Finance and Administrative Authority of Board, Chancellor and Presidents (First Reading)

Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee heard a first reading of the Proposed Amendment to Policy 7.1 Finance and Administrative Authority of Board, Chancellor and Presidents. This will be presented for a second reading and approval at the March meeting.

- (2) 2013 and 2014 Audited Financial Statements Review

Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee heard a presentation on the 2013 and 2014 Audited Financial Statements Review.

- (3) System Financial Resiliency Framework

Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee heard a presentation on the System Financial Resiliency Framework.

d. Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Chair

- (1) Transfer Degree Pathways for Baccalaureate Completion

Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher reported that the committee heard a presentation on Transfer Degree Pathways for Baccalaureate Completion.

- (2) Student Spotlight, Minnesota State University Mankato

Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher introduced Minnesota State University, Mankato student Abrar Zawed. Mr. Zawed was recently awarded a RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) Fellowship to the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Germany. He was nominated by President Richard Davenport and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology Interim Dean Brian Martensen of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Mr. Zawed has participated in undergraduate research at MSU, Mankato under the supervision of David Sharlin, assistant professor in the the Department of Biological Sciences.

A junior from Chittagong, Bangladesh, Mr. Zawed is enrolled in the Honors Program at MSU, Mankato. He is majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in chemistry. He will spend ten weeks in Martinsried, a suburb of Munich, assisting the doctoral research of Neysan Donnelly, who is studying the effects of chromosome abnormalities on human cells.

Mr. Zawed will present his research at both the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Lexington, Kentucky and the Undergraduate Research Symposium at MSU, Mankato in April.

The RISE Fellowship Program is sponsored by Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, or DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), which offers undergraduate students the chance to work with research groups at universities and institutions across Germany. Mr. Zawed is one of 300 undergraduates to receive the award out of more than 2,200 applicants.

Committee Chair Anderson Kelliher congratulated Mr. Zawed and thanked him for attending the meeting. Mr. Zawed recognized the MSU, Mankato Honors Program and the Office of University Fellowships for their support and encouragement.

7. Trustee Reports

Trustee Benson participated in Winona State University's fall commencement. Trustee Sundin invited the trustees to attend the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship event on March 26, 2015, at the Prom Center in Oakdale. Trustee Vizenor visited Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids.

8. Joint Council of Student Associations

a. Minnesota State College Student Association
Kayley Schoonmaker, president, addressed the Board of Trustees.

9. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Bargaining Units

a. Inter Faculty Organization
Jim Grabowska, president, addressed the Board of Trustees.

b. Administrative and Service Faculty
Adam Klepetar, president, addressed the Board of Trustees.

10. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the board.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.