

**MINNESOTA STATE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2019**

Executive Committee Members Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Vice Chair Jay Cowles, Treasurer Roger Moe, and Trustees Dawn Erlandson, Roger Moe, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra

Executive Committee Members Absent: Alex Cirillo

Other Trustees Present: Bob Hoffman, Rudy Rodriguez and Samson Williams

Convene and Call to Order

Chair Michael Vekich called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and acknowledged Trustee Samson Williams who was participating by phone.

Chair's Updates

Chair Vekich reported that the first Forum on Reimagining Minnesota State was held at Minneapolis College on December 10. The topic was on the forces impacting higher education in the United States. About eighty people attended it and another 150 or so participated online. The next Forum on Reimagining is January 14 at St. Cloud State University. The topic is on the digital age, and one of the speakers is Dr. John O'Brien, the president and CEO of Educause. Dr. O'Brien previously served as the president of North Hennepin Community College and the senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs.

Chancellor's Updates

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra also commented on the Reimagining Minnesota State Forums. There have been very positive comments. He added that the work of the Advisory Group will help inform the long-term vision for Minnesota State.

Chancellor Malhotra noted that the new administration is focused on education in general and higher education in particular. He attended the Governor Walz's inauguration and he was talking about "One Minnesota." Minnesota State is also one Minnesota. There are new committee chairs in the higher education committees, and new commissioners. The chancellor added that he sent congratulation letters to Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education, and Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker, Minnesota Department of Education. Chancellor Malhotra met with Representative Melissa Hortman, the speaker of the house, and he phoned all of the members of the higher education committees. Minnesota State will present its budget request to the Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee next week. The legislative book is completed.

In December, Government Relations held a grassroots advocacy workshop that included individuals that presidents selected from their institution to assist with communicating and

advocating with the legislature. One objective was to help everyone in regard to a unified message on the legislative request. Trustees Dawn Erlandson and Louise Sundin attended the workshop along with Lt. Governor Michelle Fischbach.

Chancellor Malhotra said that he and Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles, and Trustee Erlandson are attending the Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC in February. They will meet with Minnesota's Congressional members during the conference.

Update on Presidential Searches

Chancellor Malhotra reported that three presidential searches are underway: Alexandria Technical and Community College, Lake Superior College, and Southwest Minnesota State University. President Hara Charlier, Central Lakes College, is the chair of the search committee for Alexandria Technical and Community College. President Barbara McDonald, North Hennepin Community College, is the chair of the Lake Superior College search, and President Scott Olson, Winona State University, is the chair of the search committee for Southwest Minnesota State University.

Next year, there will be searches for presidents of Minnesota State College –Southeast, Dakota County Technical College/Inver Hills Community College, and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Chancellor Malhotra invited Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Eric Davis to give an update on the search processes. Vice Chancellor Davis reported that Southwest Minnesota State University has received over 50 applications, Lake Superior College has received over 35, and Alexandria Technical and Community College has received over 30 applications. Renée Hogoboom is the chief human resources officer in the system office and she administers the search process.

Southwest Minnesota State University will conduct interviews via video conferencing. Lake Superior College will meet with the candidates in person. No decision has been made yet on how Alexandria Technical and Community College will conduct its interviews. Responding to a question, Sue Appelquist, associate vice chancellor for human resources, spoke in favor of video conferencing adding it reduces costs associated with travel and that the quality of the videos is quite good. She added that campuses have been using video conferencing for interviewing administrative candidates and it has been working well.

Chancellor Malhotra explained that a review of last year's presidential search process revealed that many of the candidates are in different searches and we are asking them to make several trips. The candidates and the search consultants felt that the travel demands were very onerous. This year, it was decided to ask the search committees what they were comfortable with in interviewing the candidates. Responding to a question about the pros and cons of video interviews, Chancellor Malhotra replied that the search consultants will be asked to pay

extra attention during the video interviews and to have a feedback loop. We are engaging more with the search consultants and making full use of their expertise. We are not doing the psychological assessments because we have heard there are some biases. We are asking for written evaluations of the candidates. This year's process will be evaluated later.

Vice Chair Jay Cowles commented that three trustees will be invited to participate in the interviews. Once the dates are scheduled, he will survey all of the trustees for their availability.

Responding to a question about why the system is no longer doing any psychological testing, Chief Diversity Officer Clyde Pickett explained that there cultural biases in some of the tests and a review of options is needed

Vice Chancellor Davis commented that Chancellor Malhotra will make his recommendations for the presidents of Lake Superior College and Southwest Minnesota State at the board meeting on March 20, 2019. His recommendation for the president of Alexandria Technical and Community College will be made at the board meeting on April 17, 2019.

Update on Federal Shutdown

Vice Chancellor Laura King provided a brief update on the federal shutdown. She explained that Minnesota receives \$850M from federal resources that are all contained in education and higher education bills which have been signed. There is an expectation that there will be some problems with IRS regarding financial aid and our financial aid directors are working with students. Some grants, such as Small Business Association grants, could be affected and staff is working on risk mitigation.

Joint Meeting: Board of Trustees and Leadership Council, January 29, 2019

Chief of Staff Jaime Simonsen explained that Minnesota State will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm on January 29, 2019. The presidents were asked to submit proposals featuring programs or student or alumni success stories that could be showcased in interactive displays. The displays will be an opportunity for the trustees and others to learn directly from the campuses and to connect with legislators that will attend the event. Chancellor Malhotra will send personal invitations to all 201 legislators as well as Governor Walz, and Commissioners Olson and Ricker.

Board of Trustees Meetings, January 29-30, 2019

Chair Vekich reviewed the draft schedule of meetings on January 29 and 30, 2019.

Other: Legislative Update

Special Assistant to the Chancellor and Director of Government Relations Bernie Omann acknowledged the work of Chief of Staff Jaime Simonsen, Vice Chancellor Laura King, and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Noelle Hawton for their work in providing the information in the system's FY2020-2021 legislative request. He added that the communications team was strong on messaging Reimagining Minnesota State and the

chancellor's partnership tours. Director Omann also thanked and acknowledged the staff that do advocacy work on smaller campuses as they are the same folks that do everything else. They are being asked to do more especially during the legislative session. In addition to the budget request, bills pertaining to Minnesota State colleges and universities will be introduced and they will be monitored and testified on, if needed.

Vice Chancellor King commented that since 2002 our revenue has increased on average about 1/10 of one percent per year which is to say that revenue is flat. Campuses have been reallocating about \$35M a year just to balance their budget. Presidents have done a terrific job of adding programs, taking care of facilities, while balancing their budgets year over year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.