

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Board of Trustees

St. Paul, MN

April 17, 2019

Present: Chair Michael Vekich, Vice Chair Jay Cowles, Treasurer Roger Moe, and Trustees AbdulRahmane Abdul-Aziz, Ashlyn Anderson, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Bob Hoffman, Jerry Janezich, April Nishimura, George Soule, Louise Sundin, Cheryl Tefer, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra

Absent: Trustees Rudy Rodriguez and Samson Williams

Call to Order

Chair Vekich called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and announced that a quorum was present.

Chair's Report, Michael Vekich

Report of the Chancellor Performance Review Committee

Chair Vekich gave the following report:

I am pleased to share with you the results of the April 11, 2019 Closed Session on Chancellor Malhotra's evaluation. But first, I would like to recognize the members of the Chancellor Performance Review Committee: Vice Chair Jay Cowles, Trustees Dawn Erlandson, Bob Hoffman, and myself. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to this work.

The evaluation committee met with the chancellor on November 19th, March 19th, and most recently on April 11th. During those meetings, the chancellor shared the system level workplan and provided a progress report on those activities on April 11th. In addition, we discussed with the chancellor his long-term vision for Minnesota State.

Chancellor Malhotra has focused his efforts on building a solid foundation of trust with students, faculty, staff, presidents, and the trustees. He has encouraged open communication between the board and our presidents. He has brought a renewed focus to student success, and he has reaffirmed our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Chancellor Malhotra started a series of Partnership Tours across the state bringing together business leaders, legislators, and others to get a better sense of Minnesota's workforce needs on a regional basis.

Therefore, it is my recommendation of the committee to the board to extend Chancellor Malhotra's employment contract.

Chancellor Malhotra has proven himself in this position to be a gifted, inspirational, and effective leader. The process we have begun under the *Reimagining Minnesota State* initiative requires the kind of thoughtful and bold leadership that Chancellor Malhotra provides, and this extension will enable us to benefit from the continuity of his leadership

over the next several years as the faculty, staff, and leaders of Minnesota State work together to shape the future of higher education in Minnesota.

Extension of Chancellor Devinder Malhotra's Contract

Chair Vekich read the following motion:

The Board of Trustees authorizes the board chair to renegotiate and execute an amendment to the Employment Agreement with the Chancellor Malhotra to:

- 1. Extend his employment agreement for a period of 2 years beyond its current end date of July 31, 2021. The new end date will be July 31, 2023.*
- 2. Make modifications or amendments needed to implement the authorized changes.*

The motion was moved by Trustee Bob Hoffman and seconded by Vice Chair Jay Cowles and carried unanimously.

Chancellor Malhotra's

I am grateful for the support and confidence that the board has shown in me and my continued support for our work. I remain enthusiastic and am honored to continue this work serving students, faculty, and staff and delivering on our unique value proposition to the State of Minnesota and that all of our students may benefit from high quality education that positions them, their families, and communities for future success.

My decision to take on the chancellor's role initially was not made lightly, and neither was the decision to commit to 2023. I had to do a lot of convincing of my board of one at home. I want to sincerely thank my wife, Laura, and my family for their continuing support and their endorsement and excitement of my professional endeavors and for continuing to remind me that I am indeed a complete failure at retirement.

Yesterday's presentation by Minneapolis College and Minnesota State Community and Technical College and their partners demonstrated the profound work that they are doing in changing lives. Today's presentation on the Bell Program by Northeast Higher Education District and Minnesota State University, Mankato indeed pointed out the creativity and innovation and the transformative work which occurs on our colleges and universities each and every day. It demonstrates the value proposition of us being organized as 37 vibrant institutions as a network of interdependent and interwoven institutions. This type of work is happening in all of our campuses in every part of Minnesota.

Take the stories of Saed and James yesterday. Their stories as students reflect the work that together faculty, staff, and administrators do every day. This is what inspires me to continue to be part of this journey. This is what makes it so difficult to walk away.

I have spent my share of time in the classroom and in leadership levels here in Minnesota State colleges and universities and in three other states. I know the difference we can make

in the lives of our students and the synergy we provide to the communities we serve. My professional life's work has always been in the arena of public higher education and I know that we sit on the edge of a critical opportunity to lead the change in higher education that is grounded in the three guiding principles of student success, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and programmatic and financial sustainability.

In the last year or so, we have engaged in what I call "crowdsourcing of ideas" to reimagine Minnesota State and to start a conversation as to how together, through our collective work, we will strategically reposition ourselves to secure our future and to live in to the innate promise we offer to the citizens of Minnesota. That is the reason Chair Vekich and Vice Chair Cowles why I am excited to continue working with my presidential colleagues, system office colleagues, and the faculty and staff at all of our colleges and universities as to how we can grow together to secure our collective future.

With that, I thank you Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles, and members of the board and indeed the broader Minnesota community for the continuing support and engagement you have provided me in my work and for being indulgent when I fall flat on my face for not telling me "I told you so." Thank you very much.

Chair Vekich thanked Chancellor Malhotra and commented that the board looks forward to working with him over the next several years.

Update on Reimagining Minnesota State

Dr. Lisa Foss, the chancellor's fellow, who has been staffing the work of Reimagining Minnesota State, gave an update on the project. The Reimagining project reached an important milestone earlier this month with the hosting of the fifth and final forum session at Metropolitan State University on April 4, 2019. The topic was on innovation and approaches to inspire collaborative multi-institution innovation aimed at making progress on shared goals. About 175 people attended the event, both online and in person. This concluded the information gathering phase of the Reimagining Project.

The Emerging Themes Report was shared with the Board of Trustees, presidents, faculty, students, and staff prior to the March 20 board meeting. The report is a summary of what was gleaned from the first four forums. The report was also distributed to all employees and posted on the Reimagining Website. The Emerging Themes Report synthesized what was learned about the future of higher education from the speakers, the research, comments, and the Forum Advisory Group and those that attended the sessions. The report was also organized around the three big questions that has been driving this work since its beginning:

- What is Minnesota State's unique value proposition to the State of Minnesota?
- How do we leverage our systemness to the benefit of all of our students and our state?
- How does Minnesota State foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, and partnership as we share responsibility for the achievement of our key goals?

The Emerging Themes Report is not the first draft of the final report. It is a platform for the next set of conversations. Opportunities were created for different stakeholder groups to engage in conversations. Chair Vekich has asked Dr. Foss and her colleague Dr. Terry MacTaggart to speak with each board member so that they also have the opportunity to provide their thoughts and ideas that will shape the final report.

Dr. Foss thanked Students United and LeadMN who provided times during their delegate assemblies for an opportunity for their student leaders to shape our thinking. She gave a special thank you to Paul Shepherd, system director for student development and success for attending a delegate assembly in her stead. Students were engaged in a thought experiment and asked them how they would design their institution for students who would attend in 2030. Students provided a very unique and important perspective. Chancellor Malhotra is meeting with the bargaining units to provide them with an opportunity to dialogue around the three big questions. Earlier this month, the Leadership Council engaged in small group conversations on the Emerging Themes Report. Presidents are engaging their campuses in similar conversations and will share their results of the campus-based discussions before the end of the month. Finally, the Minnesota State community has been asked for their thoughts using the same discussion questions. To date there have been about 160 responses. The deadline for completing the survey is the end of April.

Over the next few weeks, Dr. Foss and Dr. MacTaggart will assemble the various ideas, comments, and observations received from the various stakeholder groups and campus feedback and turn it into a report that will be shared at the board meeting in June. In addition, Dr. Foss shared that the work on Reimagining is starting to get a bit of national attention. The system has been invited to present on Reimagining at the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Policy Conference in August and Chair Vekich has been invited to write a column for the June issue of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) magazine.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Reimagining Minnesota State

Thank you Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles, and members of the board. First of all, I want to thank Lisa Foss, Terry MacTaggart, and the rest of the Minnesota State community for engaging with us over the last year or so as the Forum unfolded. As it was pointed out, two weeks ago, we held the last of the five Reimagining forums. Again, my sincere gratitude to all those who participated in the forums, sent feedback, questions, and concerns, and most importantly, I want to thank the faculty and staff for the dialogue that we have had this year.

At the onset of this effort, I stressed that we were in an information gathering mode and that this was going to be a journey. The Forum report that will be shared with the board in June will be the culmination of what we learned this year but will not be an end in of itself.

What I have found enlightening about the efforts this year is that in many ways, the information that has emerged not only has the potential to spawn great ideas but has reaffirmed the good work that is going on in our colleges and universities.

Please remember as we enter into the next phase of our work together, it has no end. The next phase of our work will take the lessons learned from this past year and as a collective, we will determine where we need to go and how to get there to ensure that our colleges and universities are positioned to help our students succeed and to provide Minnesota the talent it needs.

Legislative Update

Chair Vekich, I also want to thank you and the board members for your support during this session. Your presence is sincerely appreciated at the committee hearings and at events such as Minnesota State Day at the Capitol which continues to show your unwavering commitment to our students, faculty, staff, and legislators.

The dialogue with Governor Walz and the legislators has been robust and respectful and we appreciate the opportunities that we have been afforded by the higher education committees and look forward to our continuing engagement with them during the rest of the session. The legislative request approved by the Board of Trustees has been well received and has the appropriate attention in the legislative process. While a lot of negotiations are yet to come, it is fair to say that our priorities are still in the mix as the bills move to the conference committee. There are significant differences between the proposals in the House, Senate and Governor's office, and it is evident to me that the level of funding we receive will crucially hinge on the potential revenue increase that will be debated during the legislative process.

As I look at the three proposals, it would be great if we could just pick the favorite Minnesota State position inside each of those three bills. We would have a banner year but, alas, even this economist knows that's mere wishful thinking because we all know that is not how the legislative process works. Since we were last together we are closer to seeing how we are positioned for final negotiations.

- The Governor added \$13 million to his recommendation for Minnesota State in his revised budget just a few weeks ago
- The Senate, with their position of limited growth in new revenue, has added \$100 million in new money for higher education, and
- The House target for higher education has provided historic funding levels to Minnesota State.

We remain very concerned with some of the proposed mandates in the higher education bills that will put a significant burden on our campuses. However, it is important that we get that message across in the next few weeks. Yesterday we convened a call with presidents

and the advocacy leads at each campus to make sure that we strengthen and coordinate our message to the legislature. It is important that legislators know from our presidents the impact of different legislative proposals on the districts and the communities in which our colleges and universities are located.

With your guidance and partnership Chair Vekich, Vice Chair Cowles and members of the board, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff in the final weeks of the session.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes of Committee of the Whole, March 19, 2019**
- 2. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, March 20, 2019**
- 3. Contract Exceeding \$1 Million: Winona State University, Laird Norton Renovations, Football Stadium Upgrades**
- 4. Contracts Exceeding \$1 Million**
 - a. College Source uAchieve Planner**
 - b. Lease Agreement: Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Pipestone Campus to Southwest West Central (SWWC) Service**
 - c. Lease Agreement: Amendment to Metropolitan State University Lease at 1450 Energy Park, St. Paul**
 - d. Safety and Security Services at Metropolitan State University**
 - e. Computer Lease Agreement for Minneapolis College**
- 5. Committee Name Change and Charter**

Following a motion by Trustee Bob Hoffman and a second by Trustee Roger Moe, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Human Resources Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

Committee Chair Cowles reported that the Human Resources Committee unanimously approved both action items and recommend that the Board of Trustees approve them as well.

1. Emeriti Recognition

Committee Chair Cowles read the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, in recognition that the following individuals have served as presidents with great distinction, the Board of Trustees hereby confers the honorary title of President Emeritus upon Joyce Helens, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, Larry Anderson, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, and Peggy Kennedy, Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

The motion carried unanimously.

President Emeriti Larry Anderson, Joyce Helens, and Peggy Kennedy thanked the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Malhotra for the honor and recognition.

2. Appointment of President of Alexandria Technical and Community College

Committee Chair Cowles recognized and thanked Dr. Laura Urban who has been president of Alexandria Technical and Community College since 2014.

Committee Chair Cowles read the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Michael Seymour as president of Alexandria Technical and Community College effective July 1, 2019, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorized the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and the 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.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Seymour commented that he is honored to be the next president of Alexandria Community and Technical College. He thanked Chancellor Malhotra and the Board of Trustees for their confidence in him.

Facilities Committee, Jerry Janezich, Chair

Committee Chair Janezich reported that the Facilities committee had one agenda item and it was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair

Committee Chair Roger Moe reported that Associate Vice Chancellor Brian Yolitz covered the meeting in Vice Chancellor Laura King's absence. The Finance Committee had several items that were approved on the Consent Agenda.

Outreach and Engagement Committee, Dawn Erlandson, Chair

Committee Chair Erlandson thanked the Board of Trustees for approving the committee's new name. The committee learned of Minneapolis College's engagement with Hennepin Healthcare and Minnesota State Community and Technical College's engagement with the United Way of Cass and Clay counties.

Joint Meeting of the Audit and Human Resources Committees, Michael Vekich and Jay Cowles, Co-chairs

- **HR-TSM Update**

Committee Chair Cowles reported that the committee heard an update on HR-TSM. The project has moved forward comprehensively and achieved a much lower risk assessment and higher performance assessment.

Joint Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs and Finance Committees, Alex Cirillo and Roger Moe, Co-chairs

- **Bell Engineering Program Discussion**

Trustee Alex Cirillo reported that the members learned of a new co-op based engineering program that Minnesota State University, Mankato is launching with the

Iron Range Engineering Program that has been offered at Mesabi Range College since 2010. The new program will target community college graduates with a new delivery design intended to serve students throughout the United States. The first cohort of 25 students will have a personalized program. The committee learned of the financial model and enrollment assumptions.

Student Associations

Students United

Kayla Shelly, state chair, and David Shittu, treasurer, addressed the Board of Trustees.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Bargaining Units

Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty

Tracy Rahim, president, addressed the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Moe thanked Chair Vekich for advancing the idea of reimagining our system, and said that “he considers himself a better board member having listened to higher education experts from across the country.” Trustee Moe cautioned that when the final report comes out there will not be a “wow” or an “aha” moment because what will come out in June is a long-term set of goals to address the issues we are all aware of. He added that the challenges the system faces were decades in the making so there is no quick solution. “We have the talent and the ability to address them but it is going to take time. The magic will be what this system does best and how we can free up the resources on the campuses. We have challenges and we are going to meet them. “

Trustee Sundin announced that former Trustee Alfredo Oliveira, who was a two-year student trustee, has received official approval to become a U.S. Citizen.

Chair Vekich introduced the members of the Nominating Committee. They are Trustees George Soule, Rudy Rodriguez, and Cheryl Tefer. Trustee Soule will serve as the chair. By May 20, the Nominating Committee will deliver the names of the candidates for chair and vice chair to the board office. On May 24, the board office will make public the names of each candidate. Nominations from the floor will no longer be accepted.

Chair Vekich announced that the Executive Committee will meet on May 1, 2019, and the committee and board meetings are on May 21 and 22, 2019. A joint meeting with the Leadership Council is in July at Hibbing Community College. In November, the board meeting will be at Bemidji State University. The location for the September retreat will be announced later.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.