



Meeting Minutes March 16 – 17, 2021

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**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on March 17, 2021.

Trustees present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Roger Moe, Vice Chair; Ahmitara Alwal, Asani Ajogun, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa, Rudy Rodriguez, Kathy Sheran, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer, and Michael Vekich

Trustees absent: Jerry Janezich

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 209. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Before I start my remarks today, I want to bring to your attention that the Minnesota State community of faculty, staff, students, and our presidents and campus and system leadership are deeply troubled by the recent spike in hate crimes against Asian-Americans. I want to assure you that we will continue to work hard to keep our campuses safe for all and redouble our efforts to strive towards anti-racist organization ethos.

Equity 2030

This week, we have launched the *Equity 2030 blog*. The blog will help to bridge our efforts and build a shared understanding of the progress underway across our departments and campuses, as well at the system level, as we work toward pursuing our shared equity agenda. The Equity 2030 Blog will feature thoughtful commentary on meaningful equity-related issues contributed by variety of leaders from across Minnesota State.

Another opportunity to share the work in progress is the Equity 2030 webinar series that launched in February. For this semester, the series focuses on the foundational work of the Chancellor's Equity 2030 Fellows and to begin to draw connections between

work that is happening across Minnesota State.

If we are to advance on and make the necessary changes in order to meet our goal of Equity 2030, we must deepen the collaboration and knowledge sharing between and across the system. I look forward to additional opportunities where our colleges and universities faculty and staff can share their efforts as we continue to promote cross-institutional sharing and collaboration.

Mental Health Update

As I have shared previously, the goal of Equity 2030 has multiple lenses that must be taken into consideration. As we think about the whole student, we must take into account their needs outside of the classroom and the effects it has on their educational journey.

Given the urgency in addressing the challenges and pressing concerns regarding student mental health, in January I announced that I would be seeking a Chancellor's Fellow to help aid us in this work.

The position description was shared in February and I, along with Chief of Staff Simonsen and members in ASA interviewed four candidates. In each interview, I was struck by the candidates' deep commitment and energy and excitement to take on this work. Each shared their desire to be engaged in this work moving forward and to build and grow the community of practitioners to support our students with innovative approaches.

It is my pleasure to share that the Chancellor's Fellow for Mental Health will be Kate Noelke. Kate currently serves Winona State University where she is the Director of Integrated Wellness since 2016.

As the Chancellor's fellow, Kate will lead the development and implementation of a comprehensive and holistic approach to advance student mental health at Minnesota State colleges and universities. Rest assured she will not do this work along. With her focus and assistance, I know that we will grow and strengthen the network within our system and beyond to better meet the needs of our students.

Kate will work directly with Dr. Paul Shepherd, the System Director for Student Development and Success. Dr. Shepherd was instrumental in coordinating the Mental Health Summit, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, and also convenes the Basic Needs Committee for the system. I am appreciative of the care and commitment for our students that he demonstrates on a daily basis.

Legislative Update

Picking up on the update from Vice Chancellor Maki during the Finance Committee, our colleges and universities are very appreciative of the efforts by our federal delegation

and the funding that is helping to directly support our students and our colleges and universities as they deal with the effects of COVID.

Over the course of the last month, I have continued to engage with members of our federal delegation. We held zoom meetings with all ten of our congressional offices and it was great that 7 members of congress were able to join us. I greatly appreciate their engagement and continued support of Minnesota State.

During those discussions, we continued to advocate for flexibility and clarity in the newest federal relief package so that it would help return more students to our classroom so we can help them continue their educational journey.

On the state side, we continue to work with the Governor's Office and members of the legislature. Seven weeks remain in session, and we continue to advocate for the Board's biennial budget request.

This month marks my eighth virtual remarks to the Board. I, like much of the nation and the world have spent this month remembering the changes that felt like they were coming hourly as we focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I remember sharing with the Board last March the number of decisions that we made in just 20 short days. I will tell you that most of that now feels like a blur.

None of those decisions nor the ones made over the course of this last year were easy decisions and not one decision was made lightly without thinking about the impact on our students, faculty, and staff, and our campus and system leaders.

In those early days of the pandemic, I recall a school superintendent said, "it will be impossible to know if we overacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we under reacted or did too little."

There has been criticism in this last year – why did we do this – why did we not do that. I stand firm in the decisions that we have made as a system has and will continue to put front and center the health, safety, and welfare of our students, faculty, and staff.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the board for their unwavering support of the 15,000+ individuals across the system who helped our students continue and complete their educational goals.

Chair Cowles – my closing from last March seems applicable as I close today:

Today more than ever I want anyone who is listening to know I am honored and humbled to serve as Chancellor of Minnesota State. I am honored and humbled to work alongside my system office colleagues, our presidents, but most importantly bargaining

units, student associations, our faculty and staff across all our colleges and universities.

Chair's Report, Jay Cowles

We began this month's meetings in the Committee of the Whole to receive an update on the efforts of the Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform. I echo the sentiments expressed by trustees yesterday in commending the tremendous efforts of the taskforce in examining this important topic and bringing forward recommendations relative to anti-racism law enforcement education. In particular, I'd like to express gratitude to the taskforce's co-conveners for their efforts in guiding this work: Trustee George Soule, Commissioner of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education Dennis Olson, and Associate Vice Chancellor Satasha Green-Stephen. The board was asked to consider a motion to accept the taskforce report and to charge the Chancellor to prioritize the recommendations and work with colleges and universities to implement them in a timely manner. This motion carried and has been moved to today's consent agenda for final consideration and approval. I look forward to receiving updates on implementation progress in the months ahead.

I also want to provide a note about two of today's agenda items for the awareness of all trustees. As part of the report of this month's Executive Committee meeting, we will be reviewing proposed amendments to Board Policy 1A.2 as well as three proposed committee charter revisions. The proposed changes were reviewed and approved at the March 3rd Executive Committee meeting. Copies of related materials can be found in this month's board packet. I will be asking the board to suspend the rules requiring two readings to allow the proposed changes to be fully approved at today's meeting.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge a change in practice within our virtual board meeting environment. At the January board meeting, we heard concerns about the practice of inviting written remarks from student associations and bargaining units without the option to address trustees directly. I appreciated the concern that this practice meant that an important opportunity for interaction and engagement was being missed, an opportunity that is important to both our constituent groups and to me and fellow trustees. After consultation with the Chancellor, I extended an invitation to student associations and bargaining units to join us to provide in-person remarks, beginning with today's meeting. I am grateful for the flexibility of these groups as we have adapted to holding board and committee meetings in a virtual format and look forward to hearing from some of these groups later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Chair Cowles asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Soule requested that the Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform Update be removed and taken up separately. This item was removed from the consent agenda.

Trustee Vekich made the motion and Trustee Ajogun seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, January 27, 2021**
- 2. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, March 3, 2021**
- 3. Mission Statement Change – St. Cloud Technical and Community College**

Board Policy Decisions (Second Readings)

- 1. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress**
- 2. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.29 College and University Transcripts**

Chair Cowles brought forward the consent agenda item that was removed and asked the board to consider the following recommendation approved at the March 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting:

On the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees accepts the taskforce report and commends the taskforce members for their work. The Board charges the Chancellor, after appropriate consultation with stakeholders, to prioritize the recommendations and work with colleges and universities to implement them in a timely manner. The Chancellor and staff are to update the Board on implementation progress on a regular basis.

Trustee Soule made the motion and Trustee Moe seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Human Resources Committee, Michael Vekich, Chair

Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee approved recommendations for presidential appointments for Minnesota State University, Mankato and Saint Paul College.

The Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following Motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoint Dr. Edward Inch as President of Minnesota State University, Mankato effective July 1, 2021. The board authorizes 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.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes

Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

The Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following Motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Dr. Deidra Peaslee as President of Saint Paul College, effective today, March 17, 2021, subject to completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes 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.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

Dr. Inch and Dr. Peaslee were introduced to make remarks. Chair Cowles expressed thanks to search committee chairs and members for their work.

Executive Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

Chair Cowles reported that proposed amendments to Board Policy 1A.2 and three committee charter revisions were reviewed and approved at the March 3, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Chair Cowles asked the board to suspend the rules requiring two readings to allow the proposed changes to be fully approved at today's meeting. Materials related to this item begins on page 232.

Trustee Cirillo made a motion to suspend the rules and Trustee Vekich seconded. Two-thirds approval is required. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to suspend the rules.

Chair Cowles asked the board to consider the following two recommended board motions:

The Board of Trustees approves the proposed amendment to Board Policy 1A.2 Board of Trustees changing the name of the Human Resources Committee and changing the current ad hoc committee on Outreach and Engagement to a standing committee.

The Board of Trustees approves the revised charters for the Executive, Human Resources, and Outreach and Engagement Committees.

Trustee Vekich made a motion and Trustee Moe seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes

Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motions.

The board also received reports from March meetings of the following committees:

- Committee of the Whole, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Rudy Rodriguez, Chair
- Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair

Student Associations and Bargaining Units

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks and were given the opportunity to address the board in person. Written remarks were provided by Students United, Minnesota State College Faculty, and Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty and have also been posted to the board website.

In person remarks were provided by Lead MN President Priscilla Mayowa; Students United State Chair Jonathan McNicholes, Vice Chair Emma Zellmer, and Treasurer Victor Ayemobuwa; Inter Faculty Organization President Brent Jeffers; and Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty President Tracy Rahim.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Rodriguez shared that the board's inclusive leadership plan is continuing with training sessions scheduled in March and April.

The next board meetings are scheduled for April 20-21, 2021.

Adjournment

Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Trustees was held on March 16, 2021.

Trustees present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Roger Moe, Vice Chair; Ahmitara Alwal, Asani Ajogun, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa, Rudy Rodriguez, Kathy Sheran, George Soule, and Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, and Michael Vekich

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 9. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Cowles' Remarks

Last July, the board commenced a discussion regarding the review of law enforcement and criminal justice academic programming and the next steps to law enforcement education reform. This was followed by Chancellor Malhotra standing-up a taskforce of internal and external stakeholders charged with examining this topic and advising the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees relative to anti-racism law enforcement education.

I am grateful to all taskforce members for their diligent efforts and thank the taskforce's co-conveners for their efforts in guiding this work: Trustee George Soule, Commissioner of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education Dennis Olson, and Associate Vice Chancellor Satasha Green-Stephen. I look forward to the next hour of sharing and discussion as we hear the taskforce's recommendations.

Lastly, I want to mention a couple things: today's agenda has been revised to note that the board will be asked to consider action related to this item; and, we have received a request to make public comment as part of this committee meeting so I will be holding time towards the end of the meeting to allow that to occur.

Chancellor's Remarks

Last summer, I shared with the board of our intent to constitute the Minnesota State Law Enforcement Education Taskforce and we began in earnest assembling both internal and external stakeholders to examine and provide potential reforms and changes to the law enforcement and criminal justice education, offered by our colleges and universities.

With approximately 80 percent of Minnesota's graduates in law enforcement graduating from one of the Minnesota State colleges or universities, we recognize the significant role we need to play in advancing meaningful reforms in law enforcement. While education alone is not the entire solution to police reform, it is a piece of the puzzle, and Minnesota State is committed to make the needed changes in our law enforcement and criminal justice programming to develop and prepare our graduates who are ready to anchor transformative policing.

The charge to the taskforce was straightforward and clear: To advise the Chancellor and Board of Trustees on issues, initiatives, programming and priorities relative to anti-racism law enforcement education and preparing graduates for transformative policing of our communities. The Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform is part of the overall reform of all our academic programming which will take a comprehensive approach to directly address injustice and racism within our workplace, campus communities, and curricula. In June 2019, Minnesota State adopted a systemwide vision called Equity 2030, an aspirational goal to eliminate educational equity gaps across all campuses by 2030.

At its core, Equity 2030 is an organizing principle for all our work; for our operational structures, and for the inclusive, safe, and anti-racist organizational ethos we strive for. This work includes an ongoing focus and review of all our academic programs through an equity lens; however, the review is particularly critical at this time for our law enforcement, criminal justice, and related academic programs.

I would like to acknowledge our debt of gratitude and deep appreciation of members of the taskforce who came from across different professions and experiences. Your willingness to share your perspectives, provide feedback, and the developing recommendations is much appreciated. Your work gives us a framework to develop a systemwide shared vision for law enforcement education that is responsive to the community needs and aligned with the broader police reform efforts.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the taskforce's co-conveners: Trustee George Soule, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Higher Education Dennis Olson, and Associate Vice Chancellor Satasha Green-Stephen. Your leadership

was instrumental in completing the work quickly and with a sense of urgency. The resultant recommendations provide a robust framework which not only focuses on the needed educational outcomes for new students, but also in providing current peace officers opportunities for lifelong learning. Again, a big thank you to our three co-conveners.

Chair Cowles invited Associate Vice Chancellor Satasha Green-Stephen along with taskforce co-conveners Trustee George Soule and Dennis Olson, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Higher Education to present the taskforce's Advisory and Recommendations Report which can be found in the meeting materials beginning on page 15.

The co-conveners highlighted the taskforce's purpose, scope of work, meeting schedule, and membership and also reviewed the multi-prong approach to Minnesota State's law enforcement education reform efforts including the following:

- The Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform
- Law Enforcement Faculty Community of Practice
- Program Review and Quality Assurance
- Revision of Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area 7: Human Diversity to Provide
- Systemwide Racial Issues Requirement for Graduation Diversity
- Strategic Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of Faculty of Color

The co-conveners presented the taskforce's recommendations and action steps along with the proposed timeline for continued efforts including reports to the Board of Trustees. President Merrill Irving, Jr., Hennepin Technical College, who is a taskforce member, was invited to provide additional comments as part of the presentation.

Priscilla Mayowa, LeadMN President, had previously requested to address the board and was invited by Chair Cowles to share remarks.

Chair Cowles asked trustees to consider the following recommended committee motion:

On the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees accepts the taskforce report and commends the taskforce members for their work. The Board charges the Chancellor, after appropriate consultation with stakeholders, to prioritize the recommendations and work with colleges and universities to implement them in a timely manner. The Chancellor and staff are to update the Board on implementation progress on a regular basis.

Trustee Soule made the motion and Trustee Cirillo seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Alwal	Yes
Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes

Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Absent

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Adjournment

Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on March 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Committee members present: Cheryl Tefer, Chair; Alex Cirillo, Vice Chair; Asani Ajogun, Dawn Erlandson, Javier Morillo and Oballa Oballa

Committee members absent: Rudy Rodriguez

Other board members present: Jay Cowles; Roger Moe, April Nishimura, Kathleen Sheran George Soule, Michael Vekich

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Ron Anderson, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#) starting on page 100. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Committee Chair Tefer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2021

Committee Chair Tefer asked if there are any changes or amendments to the minutes then asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Oballa made the motion and Trustee Morillo provided a second.

A roll call vote was conducted and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (2nd Reading)

Committee Chair Tefer invited Sr. Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson to present on the proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress, as detailed in the meeting materials. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 106.

Committee Chair Tefer asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

The committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the proposed amendment to Board Policy 2.9

Trustee Oballa made the motion and Trustee Cirillo seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Agenda Item 3: Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.29 College and University Transcripts (2nd Reading)

Committee Chair Tefer invited Sr. Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson to present on the proposed amendment to Board Policy 3.29 College and University Transcripts, as detailed in the meeting materials.

The meeting materials for this item begin on page 111.

Committee Chair Tefer asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

The committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the proposed amendment to Board Policy 3.29

Trustee Cirillo made the motion and Trustee Morillo seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Agenda Item 4: Mission, Vision and Value Statement change – St. Cloud Technical and Community College

Committee Chair Tefer invited Sr. Vice Chancellor Anderson, along with Annesa Cheek, President of St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) to present the proposed mission vision and value statement change for SCTCC, as detailed in the meeting materials.

The meeting materials for this item begin on page 114.

Committee Chair Tefer asked committee members to consider the following recommended committee motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed mission statement of St. Cloud Technical & Community College.

Trustee Cirillo made the motion and Trustee Oballa seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Absent

The committee voted to approve the recommended motion.

Agenda Item 5: College Transitions and the Learner Lifecycle: Minnesota’s P20 Education Partnership

Committee Chair Tefer invited Sr. Vice Chancellor Anderson along with Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker, Minnesota Department of Education; Commissioner Dennis Olson, Minnesota Office of Higher Education; and Vice Provost and Dean Robert McMaster, University of Minnesota to present on the work being done in Minnesota’s P20 Education Partnership regarding College Transitions and the Learner Lifecycle, as detailed in the meeting materials.

The meeting materials for this item begin on page 128.

This being an informational item, there was no vote taken.

Adjournment

The committee chair adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021

A meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on March 17, 2021.

Committee members present: Rudy Rodriguez, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa, and Cheryl Tefer; President Liaisons: President Anne Blackhurst and President Jeffrey Boyd

Committee members absent: Ahmitara Alwal

Other board members present: Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Kathy Sheran, Michael Vekich

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Andriel Dees, Interim System Diversity Officer; Priyank Shah, Interim Assistant Diversity Officer; Tarrence Robertson, Project Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

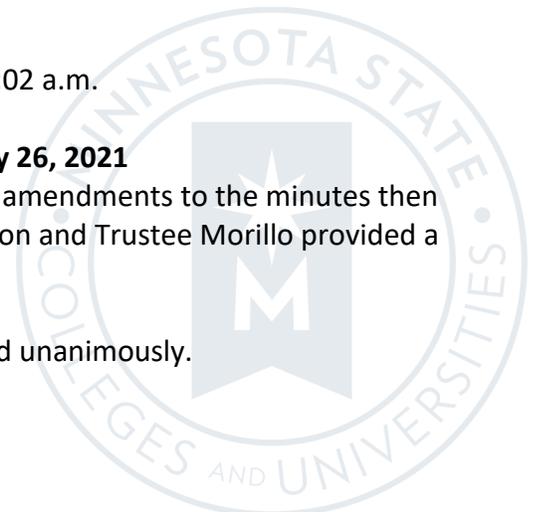
The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 180. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Committee Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2021

Committee Chair Rodriguez asked if there are any changes or amendments to the minutes then asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Oballa made the motion and Trustee Morillo provided a second.

A roll call vote was conducted and the minutes were approved unanimously.



Agenda Item 2: Equity Scorecard Introduction

Committee Chair Rodriguez invited Interim System Diversity Officer, Andriel Dees along with Priyank Shah, Interim Assistant Diversity Officer and Tarrence Robertson, Project Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to present Equity Scorecard Introduction, as detailed in the meeting materials. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 195.

Adjournment

The committee chair adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Minnesota State Board of Trustees
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Finance Committee members present: Roger Moe, Chair; April Nishimura, Vice Chair; Trustees Ahmitara Alwal, Kathy Sheran, George Soule, and Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

Other board members present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Trustees Asani Ajogun, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Javier Morillo, Oballa Oballa, Rudy Rodriguez, and Cheryl Tefer.

Cabinet Members Present: Vice Chancellor Bill Maki

President Liaisons Present: President Joe Mulford, Pine Technical and Community College and President Scott Olson, Winona State University.

This meeting was hosted online via Zoom. Committee Chair Moe called the virtual meeting to order at 11:15 and a roll-call was taken.

Chair Moe provided a brief outline of the agenda for the meeting.

1. Approval of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Chair Moe called for a motion to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from January 26, 2020. Vice-Chair Nishimura made the motion, Trustee Soule seconded. A roll-call vote was taken. The minutes were adopted as written with five in favor (Chair Moe, Vice Chair Nishimura, Trustees Alwal, Sheran, and Soule).

The Chair recognized Vice Chancellor Bill Maki who gave updates on the following topics:

- *The formal kickoff for NextGen between Minnesota State and Team Workday occurred on March 10th and 11th. The implementation team for Finance has been selected:*
 - *Mike Nordby, Finance Lead*
 - *Steve Hawrysh, Finance Project Manager*
 - *Kim Bienfang, Spend Project Team Lead*
 - *Chris Anderson, Revenue Project Team Lead*
 - *Lisa Rieke, Grants Project Team Lead*
 - *Al Finlayson, Finance Core*
 - *Pat Nordick, Finance Core*
 - *Denise Kirkeby, Finance Core*
- The FY20 Single Audit is currently in progress as it was delayed due to waiting for guidance for the CARES funding.
- Colleges and Universities are in the process of working to establish their operating budgets for fiscal year 2022.

Trustee Erlandson asked about Federal Money being used for NextGen funding. VC Maki responded that we are still waiting on guidance regarding this funding. It is unknown at this time if this funding could be used towards NextGen, but if its use was allowable, it would be used as a portion of each college or universities funding, not from the system office since the system office will not receive any funding under CRRSAA.

2. FY2021 Operating Budget Update

The Vice Chancellor provided a comprehensive informational overview of the annual operating budget. At the conclusion of the presentation, Committee Chair Moe called for questions.

Chair Cowles asked if there was some concern that legislators will assume that our budgets are being assisted in a way that allows them to not provide the support that we need on a sustainable basis. Federal assistance is one-time but our sustained efforts need to be funded by the legislature. Is this altering the way in which we will be allocating money from the federal government so as not to run afoul of the state legislature's messaging?

Vice Chancellor Maki responded that the conversations that we have had to date with committee chairs in the legislature have been of an informal nature. We expect, as the session goes on, that we will be providing more information related to the impact to the federal funding on Minnesota State. We have tried to be clear about the difference between one-time federal assistance funds and our annual budget request.

Chancellor Malhotra added that there is always a danger of distortion. As long as we separate the short-term from the long-term, and the role of the funds between one-time and continuing dollars. Between meeting the needs of the day and balancing the budget. These are two separate discussions and it is up to us to advocate and influence legislators around our current request, but also convey where the current request fits with the broader long-term sustainability framework.

There being no further questions from members, Chair Moe adjourned the committee at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted: Don Haney, Recorder

**Minnesota State Board of Trustees
Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee
Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021
Virtual, Zoom**

WOE Committee members present: Chair Michael Vekich, Vice Chair, Dawn Erlandson, and Trustees: Ahmitara Alwal, Alex Cirillo, Roger Moe, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer.

Other Leadership Council: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor. Eric Davis Vice Chancellor for Human Resources.

1. Minutes from Human Resources Committee of March 17, 2021

Chair Cowles opened the meeting and introduced Committee Chair Vekich who called the meeting to order and announced a quorum. Chair Vekich took committee roll call and asked for comments from the Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee regarding the minutes presented. Hearing none the chair entertained a motion to adopt the minutes. Trustee Erlandson and Trustee Cirillo motioned, and the minutes were adopted.

2. Appointment of President of Minnesota State University Mankato

Chancellor Malhotra addressed Chair Cowles and members of the committee and began expressing his deep appreciation to outgoing President Richard Davenport.

Minnesota State University, Mankato has continually grown and flourished under the helm of President Davenport these past 18 years. The impact of his leadership extends beyond the university as he has made notable contributions to the economic development of the greater Mankato region and has played a prominent role as a leader at the system level. The chancellor thanked President Davenport for his passion and commitment to transforming lives throughout his career in higher education and for his dedication and direction during this pandemic. Given all of this, the university is well positioned to secure its future. The chancellor thanked President Davenport and wished him the very best in his retirement.

Chancellor Malhotra, recommended to the board the appointment of **Dr. Edward Inch** as President of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Dr. Inch has served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at California State University, East Bay since 2016. In this current role, his leadership responsibilities cover academic programs and student support services, strategic planning, retention and recruitment and community engagement.

Dr. Inch has earned his doctorate in speech communications from the University of Washington, a master's degree from the University of Oregon; and a bachelor's degree from Western Washington University.

Dr. Inch has extensive experience in developing and advancing initiatives around student success, retention, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. He understands the importance of community

engagement and positioning the university as an asset, which contributes immensely to the region's social and economic vibrancy.

Dr. Inch has the academic credentials, experience, leadership skills and vision required to ensure the success of students and guide Minnesota State University, Mankato into the future.

Feedback from interviews with faculty, administrators, community and students affirmed Dr. Inch as a collaborative, inclusive, thoughtful and innovative leader. His experience will enable him to be a strong partner at the system level, pursuing a shared vision of Equity 2030.

Chair Vekich thanked the chancellor, acknowledged the members of the search committee and asked for discussion of the recommendation.

The Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Dr. Edward Inch as President of Minnesota State University, Mankato effective July 1, 2021, 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 Workforce Organizational Effectiveness 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.

Trustee Moe and Trustee Erlandson motioned. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Appointment of president of Saint Paul College

Chancellor Malhotra addressed the committee with his recommendation for Saint Paul College.

Saint Paul College is emerging from challenging times and has made substantial progress in recent years, fostering robust partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, industry and the K-12 system. Saint Paul College has a strong foundation both programmatically and financially. In this past year Interim President Dr. Peaslee has navigated the college through the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and a national reckoning on systemic racism. Following the death of George Floyd, Dr. Peaslee facilitated campus wide efforts and communications that led to the commitment and associated plan for the Saint Paul College to become an anti-racist and trauma-informed institution.

After careful consideration of the feedback received during the interview process, Chancellor Malhotra recommends the appointment of Dr. Deidra Peaslee as president of Saint Paul College.

In her role as interim president, Dr. Peaslee demonstrated steady and strong leadership, empathy, and grit while facing unprecedented challenges. She understands the difficult conversations and work that will be ongoing now and into the future to ensure forward momentum in student success and in positioning Saint Paul College as a key economic driver for the City of Saint Paul and the greater metropolitan area.

Dr. Peaslee brings over 25 years of experience in higher education. The past 17 years within Minnesota State. In 2011 Dr. Peaslee was named vice president of academic and student affairs at Anoka Ramsey

Community College. Prior to Anoka-Ramsey, Dr. Peaslee served as assistant dean and director of the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University. Dr. Peaslee has displayed leadership attributes that inspire collaboration and strategic positioning.

She earned a doctorate in education leadership from St. Mary's University; a master's from Minnesota State University, Mankato; and a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University.

Feedback from the interview process affirmed Dr. Peaslee as a strong leader, passionate about student success and a deep knowledge of the campus. She seeks to listen first, striving to understand the perspective of each member of the college community and then fashions sound strategies to move forward. Campus communities expressed appreciation for Dr. Peaslee's ability to create a collaborative and inclusive environment, bringing trust and stability to the functioning of the college.

The chancellor concluded by stating Dr. Peaslee is the right leader at this juncture of the college's trajectory. Her leadership bodes well for the future of Saint Paul College and success of its students.

Chair Vekich thanked the chancellor, acknowledged the members of the executive search committee and asked for discussion of the recommendation.

The Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommended the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Dr. Deidra Peaslee as President of Saint Paul College, effective March 17, 2021, 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 Workforce Organizational Effectiveness 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.

Trustee Moe and Trustee Erlandson motioned. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Cowles concluded the session at 11:35am
Tamara Mansun – recorder.