



**Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on June 2, 2021.

Committee members present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Roger Moe, Vice Chair; Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, April Nishimura

Committee members absent: Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich

Other board members present: Rudy Rodriguez, Kathy Sheran

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Kari Campbell, Interim Board Director

An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Chair's Update

I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few items that I plan to have the Executive Committee take up when it begins its work for the new fiscal year with its October meeting. As introduced by Trustee Vekich at the committee's March meeting, I plan to bring forward the proposal to amend board policy to allow for 2-year terms for board chair and vice chair positions along with another proposed policy amendment related to Board Policy 1A.1.

Also, as was mentioned during the May meeting, I have talked with Chancellor Malhotra and based on the timing of the legislature, I am proposing a special board meeting on June 30th to take up the 2nd reading of the FY2022 operating budget. I would expect that this meeting would take about 2 hours; Interim Board Director Campbell will connect with trustees to identify a time. The consultative process that supports this effort is already well underway and that feedback, including consultation letters from student senates, will be part of the materials packet that will be distributed prior to the June 30th special board meeting.

Lastly, our next regularly scheduled board and committee meetings are scheduled for June 15-16 in a Zoom format for both days.

Chancellor's Updates

Over the past two weeks, members of Minnesota State were invited to meet the finalists for both vice chancellor for equity and inclusion, as well as for Vice Chancellor for Information Technology. Each candidate went through a pretty arduous day of meetings, not only with myself but members of my cabinet, system office divisional staff, presidents, their campus colleagues and students, faculty, and staff. I would like to express my thanks to Chair Cowles and Trustees Alwal, Cirillo, Nishimura, Rodriguez, and Soule for their assistance in meeting with the finalists and their feedback after the meeting was greatly appreciated. I am reviewing the feedback and comments from the Minnesota State community from across our colleges and universities and here from my colleagues in the system office and I look forward to bringing my recommendations to the board in a few weeks. Whoever is chosen in each of these areas will walk with a full agenda in front of them to help our colleges and universities and the system as a whole to not only continue the work underway, but also to bring their unique talents and skill sets to push us further.

We are all aware of developments in the legislature and both the legislature and the governor have some important work to do before June 14 special session. We are however very optimistic that our higher education bill will be negotiated and signed by the start of 2022 fiscal year. Since the end of regular session, the higher education working group, led by Commissioner Olson, Chair Tomassoni in the Senate, and Chair Bernardy in the House, have been meeting and as has been indicated in press messages, it seems like they are fairly close to coming to some conclusion of their negotiations. At this time, it would not be prudent for me to speculate on the outcome until there is a proposal for Minnesota State to react to, so we are waiting as to what comes out of it. However, I want to assure the board that we are in constant touch with Commissioner Olson, Chair Tomassoni, as well as Chair Bernardy and that our advocacy work continues and is robust. We will be sending the board an update on negotiations as soon as they become public. I would like to thank Trustee Moe for helping us in shaping and developing our advocacy in this regard. So, thank you, Vice Chair Moe. I want to thank you all for your patience...please know that the work that all of you do with the legislature and the administration is greatly appreciated and is well received and your advocacy is critical for us to get a favorable outcome from Minnesota State.

Agenda Item 4: Transition plan for return to in-person meetings

Chair Cowles invited Interim Board Director Campbell to present a proposed transition plan for return to in-person meetings for review and discussion. There were no meeting materials for this item.

This being the first reading of the item, there was no vote taken.

Adjournment

The committee chair adjourned the meeting at 8:54 a.m.