A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 16, 2021.

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

Trustees absent: April Nishimura

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available here, starting on page 190. An audio recording of the meeting is available here.

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m.

Chancellor’s Report, Devinder Malhotra

As we approach the end of the fiscal year and with a number of important topics to touch on – my remarks will be longer than usual...

As we all are aware the Minnesota policymakers are continuing their work at the Minnesota Capitol and it is refreshing to see that this beautiful Capitol is once again open to visitors. The higher education finance bill is making its way through the process and thank you Chair Cowles, Vice Chair Moe and Trustees for holding a special meeting later this month to review the FY22 budget. We are confident the bill will be passed and signed by the Governor by then.

I greatly appreciate the strong support demonstrated by the Walz/Flanagan Administration and Commissioner Dennis Olson, and the leadership of Chair Connie Bernardy and Chair David Tomassoni. The agreed upon budget proposal shared with you by Vice Chancellor Maki moves the state’s talent pipeline forward and helps ensure access to an extraordinary education in an equitable manner for all Minnesotans.

The funding target the conference committee received wasn’t large. However, Minnesota State was treated fairly in the negotiated compromise. The bill provides
funding for initiatives put forth by the board in the areas of student basic needs, mental health services, and continuing the work on reducing textbook costs for our students, as well as providing an increase in workforce development scholarships.

I would like to thank the board for providing counsel and advice, and to the many of the trustees who were engaged directly in lobbying efforts throughout the session. In addition, I am grateful to so many colleagues who helped move this process along across our campuses and at the system office.

In a few short weeks, we look forward to welcoming our lawmakers to our campuses and to show them our infrastructure needs during our bonding tours. I want to thank and express my appreciation to the board for its work in putting forth a robust 2022 capital investment plan, and we look forward to working with you, our stakeholders, and community partners in sharing the board’s priorities with the legislature.

Following yesterday’s presentation on the Digital Learning Transformation, I shared with the board the recent multi-year grant awarded to Minnesota State by the Department of Education that will notably aid our work in improving affordability and student success. Minnesota State has been a leader in promoting open educational resources, and with the state facing a shortage of teachers, this federal funding will expand on our successful open textbook efforts for core teacher education courses, enabling students, faculty, and others to freely access course materials.

In addition, this grant will help cultivate a diverse teacher workforce and enhance teacher preparation to best serve our students who come from a wide range of cultural, racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It’s an all-around win and I’m proud of our success in this area.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our entire congressional delegation for their public support for our grant application, and I would like to thank Chair Cowles, Vice Chair Moe, Trustee Erlandson, and President Charlier for helping to get the application over the finish line, by their passionate advocacy during our Washington visit.

Last month we celebrated the accomplishments and transitions of over 35,000 students who graduated this year. Today, we celebrate a different kind of transition.

I have great anticipation for the coming year with five new presidents and hopefully two new vice chancellors. Yet, I am torn, as some of our colleagues retire and move on to new phases in their lives and professional journeys. I am sincerely grateful for the leadership and contributions of Presidents Larry Lundblad and Richard Davenport and Interim President Jesme.
I want to thank Interim President Shannon Jesme for her service over the last six months. She stepped into the interim position at Northland, while maintaining her CFO role, navigating through the COVID crisis and leading the heavy lift of the budget process for Northland Community and Technical College. Her leadership and efforts as interim president have ensured a seamless transition for President Kiddoo. I thank her, again, for her contributions.

Serving as pillars of Minnesota State, I hold tremendous admiration for the leadership of Presidents Lundblad and Davenport, who together, combine over 70 years dedicated to higher education.

President Lundblad started his career in higher education in 1977 at what was then known as AVTI – Area Vocational Technology Institutes. With over 43 years of service, including his time at Central Lakes College, South Central College, and MSC Southeast, Larry has been an exemplary leader, and his advice and counsel to me over the years have been invaluable. There is no question Larry has earned an ‘A’... even though he’s initially failed at retirement. This will be Larry’s second retirement, and he has promised he will let us know how it progresses.

President Davenport is currently the longest serving president at Minnesota State. I was initially taken aback when some of my colleagues openly referred to him as the “GOAT.” I didn’t think this was very flattering and then it occurred to me they were referring to him as the “Greatest of All Time.” President Davenport has been in higher education for over 50 years, and served as Minnesota State University, Mankato president for 19 years. The impact of his leadership stretches beyond the university. As with President Lundblad, I have benefitted immensely from President Davenport’s advice and counsel, for which I am grateful to both.

Presidents Lundblad and Davenport have not only been colleagues of mine but also dear friends. I thank them sincerely for their leadership, significant contributions, and service, and wish them all the best as they pursue retirement.

Another leader who has announced his intent to retire is Sr. Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson. We will have plenty of time to recognize Ron’s many contributions as he is not retiring until September 2022 but I want to thank him for his steadfast focus on student success throughout his career at Minnesota State. It is my intention to launch listening sessions across the system in late summer/early fall so we are well positioned to launch a search during the fall. This position is integral to our continued work on Equity 2030 and student success and I want to leave ample time for the orientation and transition of the new academic and student leader.

At the same time, I am excited about the new colleagues who will be joining us, including five new permanent presidents and two vice chancellors. As I was reflecting on lessons learned, I was reminded the work we do is a calling. We take on complex and
formidable challenges, because we believe in the power and difference public higher education can make for Minnesotans across the state. I thank all our leaders – and faculty and staff – for answering the call.

Two years ago last June, the board launched our moonshot goal, Equity 2030: to close the educational equity gaps across race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status across all 54 of our campuses by the year 2030. It is both a simple and profoundly ambitious goal.

As our organizing principle, Equity 2030 creates a unified, cohesive vision. It examines what we can do as a system to help our colleges and universities align to this overarching goal. The dual crises of the pandemic and that of systemic racism propelled our sense of urgency. Amid these crises, we harnessed our energies – engaging our leaders, faculty, staff, and stakeholders – seized opportunities, and continued to innovate.

As part of our core infrastructure needed to meet the 21st century needs of our students, faculty and our institutions, this past November, the board set into motion Phase 2 of the NextGen project. In April, you heard about the impressive work underway by our team, together with the vendor WorkDay, in laying the foundational groundwork to create a new technology landscape. I look forward to providing an update on our progress this fall.

Next week, presidents, vice chancellors, and I will participate in work sessions led by Deloitte, our implementation partner, to develop a shared understanding of the implementation phase and a shared commitment to the journey ahead. This foundational work is integral to the change management process and the overall success of NextGen.

Trustees, we are making transformative changes to our operational structures to ensure the success and a promising future for our students – and our state. Despite a harrowing 18 months, one that will forever be marked in our history books – our campuses demonstrated resiliency and vibrancy. Last fall 163,000 students took classes. Summer courses are in full swing with students, faculty, and staff back on campuses and preparations are underway for the fall.

Many of our institutions are welcoming kids and teens through a variety of summer camp offerings. These range from our popular SCRUBs camp, to welding and manufacturing, cybersecurity, athletics, STEM and arts, among others. There is learning, synergy, exploration, and innovation – and there is also laughter, new friendships, and fun.

I deeply appreciate the efforts and hard work of all our faculty and staff to keep campuses open all through the pandemic to provide students critical services and to ensure that we also assist students in dealing with the challenges of remote learning.
With Minnesota’s successful vaccination rate, combined with all-time low infection rates, and our continued efforts to ensure health and safety measures, the pandemic is lifting. We are emerging resilient, stronger, and well positioned to maximize our positive impact.

Trustees, I hope you, like me, are feeling hopeful and inspired about the future. Chair Cowles, that concludes my remarks.

Chair’s Report, Jay Cowles
I want to echo the Chancellor’s sentiments of gratitude to our departing presidents. On behalf of the board, I thank Interim President Jesme for her service to Northland Community and Technical College and also thank Presidents Davenport and Lundblad for their leadership and service and wish them well in their retirements.

As the chancellor noted in his remarks, the past 18 months have been harrowing. Amidst all the challenges, both collective and personal, our students, faculty, staff have responded with resilience and a renewed commitment to a shared belief in the value and power of higher education. On behalf of the board, I thank and commend everyone for their efforts.

And trustees, typically the June board meeting constitutes the last meeting of the fiscal year; however, we will convene one more time this month so the board may take action on the FY2022 annual operating budget, pending the conclusion of the legislature’s efforts to pass a state budget for the FY22-23 biennium. This special meeting will take place on the morning of June 30th – please stay tuned for further logistical details from the Board Office in the coming days.

Consent Agenda
Chair Cowles asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. LeadMN Fee Proposal (Second Reading) did not pass in Finance Committee and will be removed from the consent agenda.

Chair Vekich made the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and Vice Chair Moe seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

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<td>Trustee Morillo</td>
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Trustee Nishimura  Absent
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:

1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, May 19, 2021
2. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, June 2, 2021
3. Revised FY2022 and Proposed FY2023 Board Meeting Dates (Second Reading)
4. Review and Approve FY2022 Internal Auditing Plan
5. 2022 Capital Program Recommendation (Second Reading)
6. Contracts Requiring Board Approval:
   a. Classroom Technology Upgrade Project, Dakota County Technical College
   b. Classroom Technology Upgrade Project, Inver Hills Community College
   c. Guaranteed Energy Savings Program Contract, Winona State University
   d. Blackbaud Master Contract Extension, System Office
   e. MBS Bookstore Contract Extension, System Office
   f. TIAA Retirement Recordkeeper Contract, System Office
7. Surplus Property Designation: Winona State University
8. Revenue Fund Bond Refunding: 2011 Issuance (Second Reading)
9. 2022 Capital Program Recommendation (Second Reading)

Board Standing Committee Reports

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Michael Vekich, Chair
Committee Chair Vekich reported that the committee approved recommendations for the appointment of Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion.

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 Andriel Dees as Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion, 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.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:
The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Andriel Dees was introduced to make remarks.

The board received reports from June meetings of the following committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Joint Meeting: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, Co-Chairs Rudy Rodriguez and Michael Vekich
- Audit Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Closed Session: Joint Meeting: Audit and Finance Committees, Co-Chairs George Soule and Roger Moe
- Facilities Committee, Jerry Janezich, Chair
- Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair
- Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Michael Vekich, 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 and Inter Faculty Organization and have been posted to the board website.

In person remarks were provided by LeadMN President Priscilla Mayowa; Students United State Chair Jonathan McNicholes; Inter Faculty Organization President Brent Jeffer; Minnesota State College Faculty President Matt Williams; and Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty President Tracy Rahim.

**Other Business, Election of Officers**

Trustee Cirillo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met on May 17, 2021 and discussed the two candidates who had submitted their names for candidacy as prescribed in Board Policy 1A.2, Part 4, Officers of the Board, subpart E. The Nominating
Committee sent its recommendations of Jay Cowles as chair and Rudy Rodriguez as vice chair to the Board of Trustees on May 17, 2021.

The Nominating Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motions:

*The Board of Trustees approves the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to elect Jay Cowles as chair of the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2021.*

*The Board of Trustees approves the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to elect Rudy Rodriguez as vice chair of the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2021.*

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

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The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

**Trustee Reports**

Additional reports were heard from Trustee Oballa and Chair Cowles.

The next board meetings are scheduled for June 30, 2021.

**Adjournment**

Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.