



**Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on September 7, 2022.

Committee members present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Jay Cowles, Treasurer; Dawn Erlandson, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich

Committee members absent: Rudy Rodriguez

Other board members present: April Nishimura, Kathy Sheran

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Kari Campbell, Executive Director

The meeting materials are available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chancellor's Updates

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees-

The 26 colleges and seven universities of Minnesota State are all in full swing welcoming and serving students at 54 campuses in all corners of the state, building the talent of Minnesota's workforce, and driving the vitality of Minnesota's economy. With classes now entering their 3rd week, our campuses have gotten into that fall semester rhythm.

Another event that was in full swing was the Minnesota State Fair where the colleges and universities of Minnesota State were in full display. Our presence in the education building would not be possible without the many, many volunteers including Chair Moe and Vice Chair Soule who talk with employees, alumni, friends of our campuses, and prospective parents and students. I heard the buttons were a huge hit as always!

For many of us, we don't begin to think about the fair again for another 300+ days but for our Marketing and Communications team, the booth may be down but the planning has already started for 2023. Thank you to Noelle and all of the MarComm team for their help and dedication to making this a great showcase!

This time of year also means we are the Executive Search season has begun and I have four updates to share with the board.

With the announcement of President Blackhurst, our work is well underway as we prepare to launch the search for the next president of Minnesota State University Moorhead. I will visit the campus at the end of this month to hold my listening sessions. Once those have concluded we will launch the search with the hopes of bringing forth a recommendation to the Board in March 2023.

Approximately two weeks ago, we began the recruitment phase for a permanent General Counsel. We have enlisted the help of Heinze and Associates to identify possible candidates for the position. My thanks to Vice Chair Soule for chairing this search. We are still compiling the search advisory committee and will share with you the roster once finalized. The SAC will begin their work in October. Finalists will then be selected to interview with myself, cabinet, the Office of General Counsel team and other trustees. Our plan is to bring forward a recommendation to the board at your November meeting.

In my work plan last year, I indicated two areas of opportunity and growth:

One was the creation of the Center for Data Access and Analytics. This new unit will focus on data analytics and decision support, providing a publicly visible presence in state and national research and analytics communities. With that, we have launched the search for the new Executive Director that will lead this work. The Executive Director is responsible for providing strategic direction to the system's data analytics, decision support, and data democratization efforts, in collaboration with senior system leaders and campus presidents, research staff, and faculty. This position will serve on my cabinet. We hope to have the individual identified by early October.

And lastly, in the fall 2021, we formed the new Workforce and Economic Development unit and I asked Larry Lundblad to, again come out of retirement, (and you say I'm bad at this retirement gig) to help develop the framework and structure for this new unit. Larry has done a great job and I'm pleased that we are now in a position to launch the search for the permanent Executive Director. In October I meet with key campus and system stakeholders to get their feedback on this leadership role with the hopes of identifying someone by January 2023 when Larry has reassured me that for real this time, he is retiring.

Over the course of the next three months, we will present to the board for your consideration a biennial budget request that reflects our system's greatest needs and highest priorities to do the work that our colleges and universities are charged to do. To do this work there are conversations occurring at all levels of the system including with presidents, statewide bargaining units in our meet and confers and with the student

associations at my monthly meetings with them, in addition to conversations that presidents have with members of their own community.

New this year is the addition of the biennial budget listening sessions.

Beginning on September 12 and for the 3 weeks that follow, I along with Chair Moe and other trustees, Vice Chancellor Maki, members of the Government Relations team, and other members of my cabinet will travel to 12 campuses to convene both internal and external stakeholders to listen to the priorities, concerns, and thoughts of key constituents.

Topics of conversation are expected to include the resources required for meeting the state's workforce needs, enhancing student success and equity, covering increases in operating costs due to inflation, and other needs

I am excited for this new approach that deepens our engagement to help inform the development of the board's biennial budget request.

At our joint meeting in July with Leadership Council and the Board, we all heard loud and clear from Chair Moe the call to be BOLD. This resonated greatly with members of my cabinet and others and has helped to shape our thinking as we think about the year ahead. This was the central theme at the retreat with cabinet and will serve as the framework as the Leadership Council gathers for our annual retreat next week at Alexandria Technical and Community College and will inform my thinking when I meet with the board the following week to share the contours of my FY2023 chancellor & system office workplan.

And with that Chair Moe, that concludes my remarks.

Chair's Update

Thank you, Chancellor, for your remarks.

I am honored and excited to be leading my first Executive Committee meeting. We all are aware of the Kersten column that came out recently, to which we responded with a well stated letter signed by many different leaders at Minnesota State. Please note there will be opportunity for discussion of this topic at the retreat. I now ask if anyone has anything else they would like to bring up at this time.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of June 1, 2022

Chair Moe asked if there are any changes or amendments to the minutes then asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Vekich made the motion and Trustee Cowles provided a second.

A roll call vote was conducted and the minutes were approved unanimously, with the exception of Trustee Soule, who abstained.

Agenda Item 5: Governance Oversight Role of the Committee

Chair Moe invited Executive Director Campbell to provide an overview of the committee's role in board governance as laid out in board policy and committee charter. There was brief discussion of the governance role of the committee and what members think it should entail. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 8.

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

Agenda Item 6: Review Board Retreat Schedule

Chair Moe again invited Executive Director Campbell to provide a schedule and topic overview of the upcoming Board Retreat on September 20-21 in Austin. There was brief discussion and Trustees were asked if they had anything to add. Trustee Soule stated he felt it would be beneficial to have a brief refresher on the Equity 2030 plan. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 11.

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

Agenda Item 7: Update from Government Relations

Chair Moe invited Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities Maki to provide an update on government relations. Topics included a possible legislative Special Session and recent developments in inflation reduction and student debt forgiveness. Melissa Fahning, Director of Communications for Government Relations, also provided information on these topics. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 14.

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

Agenda Item 8: Update on Student Loan Forgiveness Announcement

Chair Moe again invited Vice Chancellor of Finance Maki to provide an update on the latest news in student loan forgiveness. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 15.

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

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.