

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**May 21, 2008**

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*Advancement Committee Members Present: Trustees Christine Rice, chair; Cheryl Dickson, vice chair; David Paskach, Thomas Renier*

*Leadership Council Committee Members Present: President Roland Barden, Mary Jacquart, Linda Kohl, Maria McLemore*

*Other Trustees Present: Trustees David Olson, Caleb Anderson, Michael Boulton, Ann Curme Shaw, Scott Thiss, Ruth Grendahl, James Van Houten*

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

### **1. Advancement Update**

Linda Kohl, associate vice chancellor for public affairs, updated the committee on the status of several publications. A new “Amazing Facts” publication is now available, updating the system’s enrollment numbers and other facts. The new strategic plan will soon be printed. The “Make College a Part of Your Future” brochure is being revamped, and brochure listing services for business is in progress.

Chair Rice brought up Trustee Van Houten’s concerns about graduation messages. He said they should be more reflective of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities as a system and not just as individual campuses. Kohl said that this could be discussed by the committee next year as commencement season approaches.

Chair Rice reported that a one-year bridge contract has been offered to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation. The foundation’s performance toward contract goals will be reviewed after six months.

### **2. State Legislative Update**

Mary Jacquart, director of government relations, provided an update on state legislative session outcomes. The legislature adjourned May 19, 2008. Jacquart reported that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities received the largest appropriation in the first year of this biennium, which translated into faculty salary increases, investment in technology and an initiative to serving students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Tuition and accountability were major discussion points are expected to be on-going topics next session. The second year of the biennium brought the largest bonding bill that the system has seen. The Legislature was required to deal with a \$935 million state deficit through budget balancing. A

larger deficit is expected to be the major focus of the 2009 session. Student financial aid is another topic expected to be reviewed and debated.

The Friends Action Network on-line advocacy continues to be developed. Pilot campuses were given localized Web sites, which could be customized to look like the colleges or university's Web site. This project will be expanded to other colleges and universities next year.

The 2008 session outcomes included funding for repair and replacement projects and new construction through the bonding bill. Budget cuts to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities were held to about \$8 million. A policy bill directed a change in the makeup of the Board of Trustees, which will include one labor representative by 2010. A new policy requires an annual report on the 60- and 120-credit cap waiver and provides for revenue funds for the colleges and requires the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to study enrollment patterns of students of low-income families. A work group was established to study oral health and the development of a Master's level oral health practitioner program.

Trustees raised questions about the new labor representation on the board. It was explained that the language provides for nomination of candidates by the AFL-CIO. A list of names will be forwarded from the AFL-CIO to the governor, but the governor is not required to select from the names forwarded. A concern regarding conflict of interest was raised, in the event a trustee is named who is also represented by a union within the system.

The governor's newly appointed tax committee was discussed in terms of how it might have an impact on the state's economy. It is expected that recommendations will be made and considered through the course of gubernatorial and legislative debate.

Trustee interaction with legislators in upcoming sessions was also discussed. Trustees will be invited to regional Friends activities, which are coordinated by presidents within a geographical region. Other meetings with legislative leadership will also be planned. A specific trustee event is under consideration.

Appreciation was expressed for the weekly legislative updates and the Chancellor's updates. Comments were that it is very helpful and a very good service for the trustees. The Board of Trustees were complimentary to the information provided throughout the session. Mary Jacquart thanked Melissa Fahning, director of legislative communications, for this service.

The Chancellor remarked that there continues to be great unity around the capital budget request. He said that the system needs to have similar focus on what is most important with the budget request.

### **3. Federal Legislative Update**

It was reported that both Senator Coleman and Senator Klobuchar have submitted all of the system's federal earmark requests. In District 1, Congressman Tim Walz submitted five, Congressman Jim Ramstad had one, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum submitted four.

The U.S. Department of Education continues to appreciate Minnesota's good work with accountability and transparency. A regional higher education summit is being planned for summer by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' office. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Vice Chancellor Laura King responded to questions regarding financial institutions and student loan activity. There is continued national concern about the availability of student loan funds, from both private lenders and the Federal Family Education Loan Program. Healthy relationships were reported between lenders and the colleges and universities in Minnesota. King said there should be no concerns of students getting loans this fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candi Walz