

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2008**

Executive Committee Members Present: David Olson, Chair; Trustees Duane Benson, Ruth Grendahl, Clarence Hightower, David Paskach, Christine Rice and Scott Thiss

Executive Committee Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street East, Fourth Floor Conference Room A, St. Paul, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 3:35 p.m.

(1) Review of July Annual Meeting

Chair David Olson reported that among the agenda items at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 15 and 16 are the elections of officers, the approval of the meeting calendar and updates on the Board's initiatives from their October retreat. An orientation also may be scheduled depending on whether the new members are appointed by that date. Board members who are interested in officer positions may inform Trustee Christine Rice, the appointed chair of the Ad Hoc Nominations and Governance Committee. Trustees Duane Benson and Daniel McElroy are members. In addition, Chair Olson asked Board members to forward any recommendations for orientations to Trustee Rice. He indicated that he wished for a thoughtful approach that actively involves other Board members. Chair Olson commented that he will assign a mentor to each new Trustee. Vice Chair Ruth Grendahl recommended that the orientation be held apart from the meeting schedule; perhaps on the afternoon of July 14.

A review of the agenda items for the July meeting included the tuition study to be presented during the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee meeting; metropolitan area planning that will be discussed at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee; and an update on the Board's initiative for reaching underrepresented students during a joint meeting of the Advancement and Diversity and Multiculturalism committees.

(2) Leadership Council Comments

Bemidji State University President Jon Quistgaard serves as co-chair of the Leadership Council for FY 2008 with Chancellor James McCormick. President Quistgaard commented that he appreciated the opportunity to address the committee. He continued that the college and university presidents are very interested in the future planning for the system. He and the Chancellor have had some discussions, and there is interest in changing the format for the Leadership Council by setting aside time during the meetings to discuss two or three big initiatives and ideas. Responding to a query on how the board could be of better value to the presidents, President Quistgaard suggested that the Board could have lunches with the new presidents to develop relationships. In response to another question on ways to better involve the presidents from greater Minnesota,

President Quistgaard replied that the conversations on two or three big issues would be of considerable interest to all of the presidents.

Chair Olson asked Chancellor McCormick and President Quistgaard to invite the presidents to submit two or three big topics before the Board's October retreat at Bemijdi State University.

Trustee Duane Benson suggested revisiting the annual evaluations. He continued that it is the Chancellor's job to evaluate the presidents, not his, and that he is not comfortable with it. Trustee Benson asked if there is any data available on what customers/students want from the system. Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer explained that data is collected every couple of years when students are given national surveys on student engagement. Chair Olson commented that advance information from the presidents and students for the October retreat will guide the Board's discussion in planning for the future.

3) Other

Video Stream Board Meetings and Electronic Board Packet

Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Ken Niemi reported that plans are underway for a pilot, perhaps as early as July, to video stream the Board meetings.

Board Secretary Inge Chapin reported that a work group has been meeting since December to prepare for the launch of electronic meeting materials on the Board of Trustees Web site. The goals include making the meeting information available earlier and reducing printing and postage costs. Board members and the Leadership Council will continue to receive printed packets, but others will be directed to the Web site.

Board Meeting Materials

Chair Olson explained that the Board wishes to receive their meeting materials with five working days to review the information.

Special Events

Vice Chair Grendahl initiated a discussion on expenses associated with the Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence in Teaching and BestPrep's Educational Forum featuring Thomas Friedman. Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer explained that we are in ongoing conversations with the Inter Faculty Organization about their concerns related to the Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Chancellor McCormick explained that the system was one of the BestPrep event sponsors. John Asmussen, Executive Director, Office of Internal Auditing, explained that his office routinely reviews the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor's budgets for reasonableness. Chair Olson suggested a discussion on guidelines or a policy on sponsorships as a topic for a future Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.