MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MAY 19, 2009

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Christine Rice, Trustees Duane Benson, Cheryl Dickson, Louise Sundin and Jacob Englund.

Committee Members Absent: Chair Dan McElroy and Trustee James Van Houten.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Thomas Renier, Scott Thiss, Allyson Lueneburg and Terri Thomas.

Leadership Council Committee Co-Chairs Present: Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer and President David Danahar.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on May 19, 2009, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Vice Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 2:43 pm.

1. Minutes of April 15, 2009
   The minutes from the April 15, 2009 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting were approved as written.

2. Academic and Student Affairs Update – Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer
   Each Trustee was given a copy of the report, “Workforce of the Future: Leadership Reaches Out to Business,” which contains information gained by system presidents and leaders during 352 businesses visits last summer and fall. Each system representative called on about 10 businesses to further a Board of Trustees goal of enhancing the state’s economic competitiveness.

   Report recommendations include:
   - There should be a focus on internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training with local businesses and industry. Colleges and universities should see local business and industry as partners in educational delivery.
   - Business leaders stressed the importance of flexible delivery, such as online learning.
   - It is recommended that faculty look carefully at curricular areas that could be strengthened to reflect emerging skill needs of employers. These skills include technology skills and business critical “soft skills” that reflect emerging business practices, such as the use of “green” products or global competition.
Chancellor McCormick said new system presidents indicated the visits were beneficial since they allowed them to connect with businesses and industry representatives in their regions during their busy first year on the job.

Follow-up with the businesses and industries contact is important, the Chancellor said, adding he plans to ask presidents to conduct additional visits again this year. He said all businesses visited should be sent a copy of the report.

Information gathered during the visits has been entered into a repository and Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said that data will be helpful in future strategic planning efforts.

3. **Accountability Framework – Senior Vice Chancellor Baer**
   **Presenters:**
   Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Planning
   Craig Schoenecker, System Director for Research

   The system’s Accountability Dashboard was launched in June 2008. The purpose of the dashboard is to promote continuous improvement and to provide accountability to system stakeholders by providing an ongoing strategic assessment of system and institutional performance.

   The dashboard is designed primarily for the Board of Trustee and other policy makers and stakeholders. Once fully developed, the dashboard will report 10 outcomes that indicate whether the system is achieving the strategic directions identified in the Board’s Strategic Plan. The performance of the system and each college and university is classified into one of three categories: exceeds expectations; meets expectations; or needs attention.

   One goal has been to create “drill-down dashboards,” which allow for the display of a variety of detailed measurements in various ways, including licensure exams pass rate, tuition and fees, completion rates and a facilities condition index. Enrollment and graduate-related employment measurements are under development and will be added in the future.

   Dr. Schoenecker said data will be added to the dashboard twice a year. As a part of the updating process, institutions are asked to submit comments on their performance measurements, as well as action plans for measurements that fall into the “need attention” category, and those also are loaded into the dashboard.

   The dashboard aims to be user-friendly, Dr. Schoenecker said. It is hoped that the dashboard will become a “one-stop shop,” allowing users to find a wide range of system measurement data in one place. Data is displayed graphically and in a tabular format, and information is provided to help in the interpretation of the measurements.
There are four measures on the dashboard that have yet to be developed and/or launched.

**Student Engagement:** This is defined as the extent to which students are actively engaged in their education. Dr. Mercer said research shows that engagement positively correlates to student learning, retention and success. All colleges and universities have participated in a national survey in 2008 or 2009 and this information will be the basis for this measure. It is expected that the survey data will be received by this summer and these measurements can be loaded into the dashboard this fall.

**Partnerships:** This is defined as partners’ satisfaction with college and university partnerships. A contractor is developing a survey based on characteristics of effective partnerships, modeled on a survey done by Rochester Community and Technical College.

Dr. Mercer said this survey is expected to be conducted this fall and data gathered will be developed into a measurement and launched on the dashboard next spring.

**High quality learning:** Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said the development of this measure has been frustrating because of the complexity of the system. The learner outcome expectations of a university student can be different than the expectations of a student in a technical college or community college and that makes measurement comparisons difficult, she said.

Three options could be used to define the student learning measurement:

- Baseline: Assessment process measure possibly based on a National Survey of Learning Outcomes Assessment;
- Traditional: Student course success;
- Long-Term: Standardized assessments of learning. This information could be obtained for universities through the Voluntary System of Accountability. For technical colleges, the Perkins Technical Skill attainment measures might be one option. Staff continues to scan national assessment activities for promising practices, but this is largely unchartered territory.

**Innovation:** Another measure that is challenging to define quantitatively is innovation. This measurement needs more development before it can be launched. A more qualitative approach for this measurement is being recommended, she said.

Colleges and universities could be surveyed pertaining to their innovative practices that improve products, services and/or research and development. The system could capitalize on action analytics development as an innovation.

Trustee Benson said the result of innovation is better student performance. Good student performance is the end result they seek, he said.
Dr. Mercer said the system has gained national notoriety with the launching of the accountability dashboard. It is seen as a model and has been featured in several national publications and national conferences, she said.

Chancellor McCormick said he believes the system is second to none in the nation when it comes to the development of an accountability measurement process.

4. **2010 System Action Plan for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities**

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer gave an overview of the 2010 Action Plan initiatives and defined measures. This action plan serves as a primary means for identifying strategic priorities and guiding allocation decisions.

Among the initiatives and measures she noted were:

- **Reaching the underrepresented**: The target is to increase the second fall persistence and completion rate of full-time entering underrepresented students from 70.6 in 2007 to 73.7 percent in 2014.
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)**: The target is to increase percentage of students enrolled in more college-level STEM courses by 2.9 percent, from 45.9 percent in 2005 to 48.8 percent in 2011. Also targeted is an increase in the number of secondary math and science teachers prepared for licensure by 119, or 115.5 percent, between fiscal years 2005 and 2011.
- **Online Learning**: The target is that by 2015, there will be a 25 percent increase in the percentage of credits provided system through online and blended courses.
- **Workforce of the future**: The measure is an increase in number of dislocated workers served over the prior fiscal year.

A motion was made by Trustee Dickson and seconded by Trustee Benson that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2010 System Action Plan. Motion carried.

5. **South Central College Mission Approval**

**Presenter:**
President Keith Stover

The proposed new mission statement for South Central College is: South Central College provides accessible higher education to promote student growth and regional economic development.

President Stover said they worked to sharpen and simplify the mission statement to better reflect and focus on what they do best as a college.

South Central College will be the region’s leading institution for transitioning individuals into the college environment, educating students for technical careers and building student capacity for future study through inclusive student-center
programs and services, according to the college’s new proposed vision statement. The college will be a committed partner in the regional economy, helping individuals and organizations compete in the global economy.

_A motion was made by Trustee Englund and seconded by Trustee Dickson to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the request by South Central College to approve its vision, mission, goals and array of awarded as listed in the executive summary. Motion carried._

6. **Hibbing Community College Mission Approval**
   **Presenter:**
   Provost Ken Simberg

   A 16-member committee comprised of college faculty, students, administrators and staff spent four months focused on strategic planning at Hibbing Community College, Provost Simberg said. The previous mission was overhauled since the college’s reputation as a comprehensive institution now is firmly established.

   Hibbing Community college’s proposed new mission statement is: Hibbing Community College provides life-changing educational opportunities in a dynamic learning environment.

   The college’s main purposes include excellence in teaching and learning; providing a dynamic, innovative learning environment; meeting the educational needs of Hibbing and the surrounding community; and focusing on open access and student success.

   _A motion was made by Trustee Benson seconded by Trustee Englund to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Hibbing Community College to approve its vision, mission, goals and array of awarded as listed in the executive summary. Motion carried._

7. **Minnesota State University Moorhead Mission Approval**
   **Presenter:**
   Edna Mora Szymanski, President

   President Szymanski said a committee reviewed the university’s institutional profile, looking at its identity, mission and vision. They reaffirmed the focus of the university and the role it plays in the regional marketplace. She added that the college’s proposed mission statement aligns with the system’s strategic plan.

   The proposed new mission statement for Minnesota State University Moorhead is: Minnesota State University Moorhead is a caring community promising all students the opportunity to discover their passions, the rigor to develop intellectually and the versatility to shape a changing world.
A motion was made by Trustee Dickson seconded by Trustee Sundin to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Minnesota State University Moorhead to approve its vision, mission, goals and array of awarded as listed in the executive summary. Motion carried.

8. Proposed Partnership between the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and the Archibald Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation has a goal of increasing educational achievement in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The key strategy in achieving this goal is the creation of 25,000 new and highly effective teachers over the next decade.

The Foundation’s ultimate goal will be that the percent of students in the region from pre-kindergarten through college who are on track to earn a degree after high school will increase by 50 percent and disparities among diverse students groups will be eliminated by the year 2018.

The Foundation has invited four system universities to participate in the teacher reform initiative: Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University Moorhead; Winona State University; and St. Cloud State University. They are part of a group of nine public and private universities invited to participate, including ones in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said the Bush Foundation will offer $125,000 per campus to fund a four-month planning process focused on new teacher education reforms.

Trustee Benson said he supports the recommended motion, which he said is essentially an agreement to create a plan. The system will need to consider teacher education efforts in universities not involved in the Bush Foundation initiative, he said. The initial planning phase will offer an opportunity for the Leadership Council to define a firm direction when it comes to teacher education reform efforts and bring their plan back to the Board.

Trustee Sundin asked if the system will ensure that reformed teacher preparation programs meet national standards. Senior Vice Chancellor Baer said national standards will be met.

A motion was made by Trustee Englund and seconded by Trustee Sundin that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

In order to educate and support effective teachers for Minnesota:

1. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees will partner with the Bush Foundation to support the design, development and
committee to programs that produce effective teachers. These teacher education programs will prepare and assure the sustained effectiveness of new teachers that graduate and teach in Minnesota classrooms.

2. The Chancellor will work with the participating universities and the Bush Foundation to develop a plan by the fall of 2009 that will include proposals for:

   a) Measures of the effectiveness of the teacher education graduates.
   b) Policies and procedures recommended to support effective teacher preparation programs.
   c) Funding mechanisms and resources from the Board of Trustees that reward campuses for preparing and graduating effective teachers.
   d) Key outcomes used to evaluate the success of the initiative.

3. The Chancellor and the Bush Foundation will regularly report progress and recommend next steps to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Takash, Recorder