

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

JULY 30, 2007

WELLS FARGO PLACE

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Trustees Present: Caleb Anderson, Michael Boulton, Cheryl Dickson, Clarence Hightower, Dan McElroy, David Olson, Christine Rice, Scott Thiss, Ann Curme Shaw, James Van Houten and Carol Wenner

Trustees Absent: Chair David Paskach, Duane Benson, Ruth Grendahl and Thomas Renier

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Clarence Hightower called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and reported that a quorum was present.

2. Appointment of President of Normandale Community College

Vice Chair Hightower called upon Chancellor McCormick for his recommendation of the appointment of president of Normandale Community College.

Chancellor McCormick reported that upon receiving the resignation of Dr. Kathi Hiyane-Brown as president of Normandale Community College, a nationwide search was conducted with the assistance of an executive search firm. Dr. Larry Litecky, president of Century College, chaired the search committee. Chancellor McCormick, along with members of the Board of Trustees and Cabinet from the Office of the Chancellor, interviewed three finalists.

Chancellor McCormick recommended that the Board of Trustees appoint Dr. Joseph P. Opatz as the president of Normandale Community College.

Dr. Joseph P. Opatz is currently the vice president for academic and student affairs at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. He was the interim president at Central Lakes College from 2005 to 2006; a representative from St. Cloud in the Minnesota House of Representatives; interim executive dean and dean of instructional programs at Anoka-Ramsey Community College; associate vice president for academic affairs at St. Cloud State University; a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Educational Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota; special assistant to the president, director of the University Student Center and adjunct faculty member at St. Cloud State University; director of the Health Promotion Program at St. Cloud Hospital; executive director of the National Wellness Institute and adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; senior personnel administrator for Hennepin County government; and director of the Student Center for the College of New Jersey in Trenton.

Dr. Opatz holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in counseling and student personnel from Kent State University in Ohio and a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Cloud State University.

Trustee Christine Rice stated that she and Trustee David Olson participated in the interviews of the finalists. Trustee Rice commended Dr. Opatz for his work and leadership within the system. She added that Dr. Opatz has demonstrated strong capabilities in difficult situations and decision making.

Trustee David Olson stated that there were three very good candidates, and the decision was a difficult one. He continued that Dr. Opatz, with his prior experience and leadership capabilities, was the very best candidate for the position.

Trustee David Olson moved that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor McCormick, appoints Dr. Joseph P. Opatz as President of Normandale Community College, effective September 17, 2007, 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 Human Resources Policy Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Personnel Plan for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Administrators. Trustee Christine Rice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Scott Thiss commented that he was impressed with Dr. Opatz' strategic vision and that he is most knowledgeable of Normandale Community College. He added that Dr. Opatz is a perfect fit for the position.

Dr. Opatz thanked the Board of Trustees and Chancellor McCormick. He commented that he is excited and pleased to accept the position to lead Normandale Community College into the future.

Trustee James Van Houten remarked that the development of a president within the system is to be commended.

3. Adjournment

Vice Chair Chair Hightower adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Ingeborg K. Chapin
Secretary to the Board