

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 31, 2007

WELLS FARGO PLACE

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Trustees Present: Chair David Olson, Caleb Anderson, Duane Benson, Michael Boulton, Cheryl Dickson, Ruth Grendahl, Clarence Hightower, Dan McElroy, David Paskach, Thomas Renier, Christine Rice, Scott Thiss and James Van Houten

Trustees Absent: Ann Curme Shaw and Carol Wenner

1. Call to Order

Chair David Olson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and reported that a quorum was present.

2. Chair's Report

a. Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting of September 18, 2007

Chair Olson stated that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting of September 18, 2007 were approved as written.

b. Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 1A.2, Part 5, Standing Committees, Committees, and Working Groups of the Board (Second Reading)

Trustee Cheryl Dickson moved that the Board of Trustees approves the amendments to Board Policy 1A.5, Standing Committees, Committees, and Working Groups of the Board. Trustee Ruth Grendahl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Precinct Caucus Schedule Exception

Trustee Dickson moved that in recognition that no major political party, as defined by law, intends to hold its precinct caucus on the statutorily prescribed day of March 4, 2008, the Board of Trustees authorizes colleges, universities and the Office of the Chancellor to schedule events the evening of March 4, 2008, without limitation. The Board further authorizes colleges, universities, and the Office of the Chancellor to schedule events the evening of Tuesday, February 5, 2008, notwithstanding major political party caucuses scheduled for that time, if the event was scheduled prior to approval of this motion, or the president or chancellor determines that not scheduling an event on that date would cause penalty, or create hardship or significant inconvenience to those affected. Trustee Grendahl seconded and the motion.

Trustee Michael Boulton asked for clarification of the motion and whether it includes scheduled classes at the colleges and universities. General Counsel Gail Olson replied that the motion does include the ability to schedule classes. Trustee James Van Houten stated that his interpretation is that scheduled events are to be considered at the discretion of the presidents. General Counsel Olson replied that it is correct for February 5, 2008, and that March 4, 2008, is clear of any limitations.

Chair Olson moved to amend the motion adding that the Board of Trustees encourages the students, faculty and staff to attend the caucus precincts. The amendment to the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Chair Olson called the question on the amended motion. The amended motion carried unanimously.

d. Appointment of Interim President of Metropolitan State University

Chair Olson called upon Chancellor McCormick for his recommendation of the appointment of interim president of Metropolitan State University.

Chancellor McCormick stated that Dr. Wilson G. Bradshaw, president of Metropolitan State University, submitted his resignation on September 28, 2007, to become the next president of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. His last day of employment with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will be November 9, 2007.

Dr. Lowe has been with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system since July 2003, serving as Metropolitan State's provost and vice president for academic affairs. He also holds faculty rank as professor of history. As the chief academic officer, Dr. Lowe guides the business of five colleges and the Center for Online Learning for the university. Prior to joining the Metropolitan State University community, Dr. Lowe was vice president for academic affairs at The College of Saint Rose in New York; dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit Mercy; and dean of graduate studies at Chicago State University. He has held appointments at the State University of New York, Cortland and Lake Erie College in Ohio as well. Active in systemwide matters, Dr. Lowe also has been active on the national scene with the Association of State Colleges and Universities, among other organizations, and in the community. He is widely published with writing and research emphases in the field of modern Irish history. Dr. Lowe is a graduate of Michigan State University. His Ph.D. was completed at Trinity College in Dublin.

Chancellor James H. McCormick recommended Dr. William J. Lowe as interim president of Metropolitan State University.

Trustee Duane Benson moved that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of Chancellor McCormick to appoint Dr. William J. Lowe as interim president of Metropolitan State University effective November 10, 2007, and authorizes the Chancellor to negotiate an employment agreement in consultation with the Chair of the Board and Chair of the Human Resources Policy Committee in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Personnel Plan for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Administrators. Trustee Michael Boulton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. William Lowe thanked the Board members and Chancellor McCormick for their support and the opportunity. He commented that he worked closely with President Bradshaw on several important initiatives that will continue so that Metropolitan State University will be in the best possible place for the transition of a new president.

Chair Olson congratulated and welcomed Dr. Lowe.

3. Adjournment

Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Ingeborg K. Chapin
Secretary to the Board