

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2008

WELLS FARGO PLACE

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Trustees Present: Caleb Anderson, Michael Boulton, Cheryl Dickson, Ruth Grendahl, Clarence Hightower, David Paskach, Thomas Renier and Ann Curme Shaw

Trustees Absent: Chair David Olson, Duane Benson, Dan McElroy, Christine Rice, Scott Thiss and James Van Houten

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ruth Grendahl called the special meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and reported that a quorum was present.

2. Appointment of President of Metropolitan State University

Chancellor McCormick reported that Dr. William Lowe has served as interim president of Metropolitan State University since November 2007. A nationwide presidential search began thereafter with the assistance of an executive search firm. Dr. Richard Davenport, president of Minnesota State University, Mankato, 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 Dr. Sue Hammersmith for the presidency of Metropolitan State University.

Dr. Hammersmith currently serves as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a post she has held since 2002. She is a professor of social change and development and sociology at the university. Previously, she was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ferris State University, with several campuses in west central Michigan; dean of University College at Ball State University at Muncie, Indiana; and assistant dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Dr. Hammersmith holds a doctorate and a master's degree, both in sociology, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology, all from Indiana University.

Trustee Clarence Hightower stated that Dr. Hammersmith's passion was evident in the interview process, and he added that she is uniquely qualified to do an excellent job as the next president of Metropolitan State University.

Trustee Thomas Renier moved that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor McCormick, appoints Dr. Sue Hammersmith as president of Metropolitan State University effective July 1, 2008, 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 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 Michael Boulton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hammersmith expressed her gratitude stating that she is honored and privileged to have been selected. She commented that Metropolitan State University is a pioneer in higher education in an economically and culturally dynamic area and that she looks forward to moving it to the next level in meeting the needs of the community.

3. Appointment of President of Minnesota State University Moorhead

Chancellor McCormick reported that upon the announcement of Dr. Roland Barden's retirement as president of Minnesota State University Moorhead, a nationwide search was conducted with the assistance of an executive search firm. Dr. Jon Quistgaard, president of Bemidji State University, 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. As a result of this process, Chancellor McCormick is recommending Dr. Edna Mora Szymanski for the presidency of Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Dr. Szymanski is senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Maine, Orono, a position she has held since 2006. Previously, she was dean and professor in the College of Education at University of Maryland, College Park. Before that, she held several positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education and associate dean of the College of Education.

Dr. Szymanski holds a doctorate in special education from the University of Texas, Austin; a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania; and a bachelor's degree in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Trustee Cheryl Dickson stated that she was impressed with Dr. Szymanski's knowledge of the institution and her passion for education.

Trustee Ann Curme Shaw moved that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor McCormick, appoints Dr. Edna Mora Szymanski as President of Minnesota State University Moorhead effective July 1, 2008, 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 Boulton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Szymanski stated that she is honored to accept the position as president of Minnesota State University Moorhead, and she is eager to join the system and the community.

Vice Chair Grendahl thanked Chancellor McCormick, Vice Chancellor Bill Tschida, Presidents Richard Davenport and Jon Quistgaard, and all others for their extensive work which culminated in excellent results.

4. Adjournment

Vice Chair Grendahl adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Patty McCann
Administrative Assistant to the Board