



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Executive Committee

DATE: October 2, 2024

TITLE: Board retreat follow-up

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

George Soule, Board Chair
Kari Campbell, Executive Director

PURPOSE

The annual board retreat held on September 24-25 at Minnesota State University Moorhead. The committee will review survey feedback and provide additional feedback and discussion.

BACKGROUND

Trustees were asked to provide feedback via online survey. Nine responses were received, and feedback is summarized below:

	Exceeded expectations	Met expectations	Did not meet expectations
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations	11%	89%	0%
Board assessment results and next steps	33%	67%	0%
Role of a Trustee	44%	44%	11%

Based on board training discussions, what actions should the board take to improve its effectiveness?

- Focus on high-priority issues and sufficient time for discussion: Prioritize student success, institutional financial health, and equity.
- Streamline process for minor policy changes.
- Focus on broader trends in higher education and the system to identify potential issues and opportunities.
- Continue to offer training sessions relevant to the board's current and future challenges.
- Foster more conversations among board members, in addition to interactions with staff.
- Increase committee attention to annual work plans.

	Exceeded expectations	Met expectations	Did not meet expectations
Minnesota State Perspectives - LCEC presidents	56%	44%	0%
Minnesota State Perspectives - student associations and bargaining units	22%	67%	11%
M-State breakfast and campus tour	44%	56%	0%
The Year Ahead: Chancellor's FY2025 Workplan	11%	89%	0%
FY2025 Board Committee Workplan Review	11%	78%	11%
Equity 2030 Update	11%	89%	0%
Board Policy 5.10 Reserves and Fund Balances	67%	33%	0%
Campus Approaches to Foundation and Fundraising Activities	44%	56%	0%

What did you find most meaningful about the board retreat?

- Conversations among trustees were balanced and allowed for in-depth discussion and alignment.
- The retreat was well-planned and executed.
- The candid and constructive conversations with all stakeholders were appreciated.
- Presidents actively participated in the retreat, and students had the opportunity to share their perspectives.
- The retreat was a positive and memorable experience, particularly the interactions with students and campus facilities.

What could be improved in future board retreats?

- Allocate more time for conversations about the big picture and strategic direction.
- Include informal activities to foster camaraderie among board members.
- Consider reviewing an enterprise risk assessment.
- Eliminate topics that can be addressed through reading materials.
- Include presidents from various institutions in panel discussions.