



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
Board of Trustees

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME:** Ad Hoc Committee on Future Readiness

**DATE:** June 17, 2024

**TITLE:** Review draft proposal

Action

Review and Discussion

*This item is required by policy*

**PRESENTERS**

Kathy Sheran, Committee Chair

**PURPOSE**

The ad hoc committee is charged with assisting the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities related to preparing the system for the future and is charged with considering and offering recommendations for the structures and processes needed to support that role. The committee will review a draft proposal included below for strengthening the boards capacity to regularly engage in discussions and policy considerations that will ensure the future-readiness of the system.

**BACKGROUND**

The following is the draft proposal for review:

The ad-hoc committee is charged with assisting the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities related to preparing the system for the future. The ad-hoc committee is charged with considering and offering recommendations for the structures and processes needed to support that role.

The following is a proposal for strengthening the boards capacity to regularly engage in discussions and policy considerations that will ensure the future-readiness of the system. The following recommended changes to committee meeting processes are designed to help trustee's work with the Chancellor to prioritize future-focused thinking, planning and support. We also hope these processes are maintained to sustain future-focused work by the trustees in board and committee work.

The proposal offers a process that creates space for discussing areas that are future focused including (but not limited to) the emerging education market, market competition and positioning, maintaining our value proposition and relevance into the future, examining the integration of artificial intelligence, assuring the systems financial framework is balanced and anticipates the future, etc.

The work of the committees is not intended to supplant board training sessions and presentations on trends affecting the future of higher education.

It is recommended by the ad-hoc committee that each committee of the board comprise its agenda to address three components of system management.

- Policy – Achieving goal of reviewing all policies over rolling 5-year period and identify policy enhancement & simplification which support operations and strategic initiatives.
- Operations – Base charge of committee as defined in our charter and additional delegated responsibility by full board including review of practices utilized by staff and administration when implementing policy.
- Strategic Initiatives - 2-3 annual areas of focus that significantly move the system forward.

In advance of full committee meetings, it is best practice for a preparatory discussion to take place between the Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chancellor & Presidential liaisons. During this discussion, content should be planned in alignment with the annual work plan and focused around the three components, with a tilt toward dedicating committee time to the strategic initiatives.

It is expected that materials sent out for the meetings be read and absorbed by trustees before their respective committee meeting and generally not re-presented at meetings (clarifying questions from trustee's will be directed to VC before the committee meeting) so most of the committee time can be spent in discussion on the highest priority areas. The Chair and Vice Chair will assist the staff to understand how synthesize presentations on Policy and Operations so that the board having read the material is able to ask clarifying questions and answer questions and have discussion around areas where staff can gain insights on where the board is interested in heading.

It is recommended that policy and operations be minimized to allow for more focus on strategic initiatives identified by the board committee.

Each board committee shall dedicate time at the beginning of the year to talk through and prioritize 2 or 3 critical strategic initiatives that then will help craft the committee workplan for that year.