



**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2024**

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 22, 2024.

Trustees present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Jerry Janezich, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Micah Coatie, Idman Ibrahim, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Christopher Richter

Staff present: Scott Olson, Chancellor

Meeting materials and audio recordings are available on the [Board of Trustees website](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

**Student Associations and Bargaining Units**

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks and given the opportunity to address the board in person. No written remarks were provided.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Lead MN: Rachel Boeke, Executive Director
- Students United: Marwah Asif, President
- Inter Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees: Aaron Pierson, Minneapolis College
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Matt Dempsey, Vice President

**Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson**

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees-

As you are all aware, the legislative session ended chaotically and didn't end in the things we had been lobbying for. We remain committed to continuing this work and have laid the groundwork with many legislators for future sessions. I want to thank all the trustees who engaged so heartily to move this agenda forward. It's true that NextGen will go live in about a month. Companion projects are also in motion. This is an unprecedented amount of change coming. We should

anticipate that things may not go smoothly and there may be problems, but this goes with the sustainability we have all talked about that the system needs. Intensive hyper care will be available during the weeks immediately following 'go live'. There is variability in how ready campuses are. I will let the Board know when it looks like we are through the toughest of it, when hyper care is over and the number of service tickets diminish.

A couple of other items: First, I wanted to give a shout out to Dr. Joyce Ester, who was named one of the "Women in Business" leaders by Minneapolis-St. Paul magazine-congratulations for this recognition! I also wanted to bring up the age-old philosophical question of 'systemness' vs. autonomy of individual campuses. There has always, and will continue to be, a lot of discussion of this concept. I believe our 'systemness' is our 'secret power' that allows us to transcend problems that other higher education institutions are having as they face the changing landscape. It enables us to do things like NextGen and focus on Equity 2030, while letting campuses have their own uniqueness. I look forward to talking about this further. With that, Chair Moe, I conclude my remarks.

### **Chair's Report**

Thank you, Chancellor, my comments will be brief. As it relates to the legislative session, we all share the disappointment. There are two things our government relations team does: one is to advance some initiatives, and the other is to stop the advancement of certain initiatives, which our team was highly successful at. I want to thank them for their efforts. I also want to thank our financial people as well. Our positive credit rating saves hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars over the long haul, and is really quite profound and a positive reflection on the system.

A couple of other items: I have received word from Trustee Nishimura who sends her best wishes to everyone, as her current trustee tenure ends this summer and she will not be able to continue on as a trustee. You are going to be required to read an AI book as part of our preparation for this effort. "Brave New Words" will serve as a starting point for discussions in June and continue the discussion at the Board retreat.

Thank you again, trustees, for attending nearly thirty commencements this past month! I want to close with something about higher education. I come from very rural Minnesota and saw an exciting headline from the "Erksine Echo": Winamac Seniors Presented with Over \$158,000 in Academic Scholarships" on Awards night. Hats off to my small school district!

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was conducted. Trustee Huebsch motioned and Trustee Grabowska seconded. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Coatie	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes

Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of April 17, 2024
2. Proposed FY2025 Board Operating Budget
3. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.6 Intercollegiate Athletics (Second Reading)
4. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.27 Copyrights (Second Reading)
5. Contracts Requiring Board Approval Lease Agreement, Maverick Innovation Gateway, Minnesota State University, Mankato
6. FY2026 Capital Budget Request Guidelines (Second Reading)

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

The board received reports from meetings of the following committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Outreach and Engagement Committee, Dawn Erlandson, Chair
- Joint Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Finance and Facilities Committees, George Soule, Chair

### **Other Reports**

There were no other trustee reports.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.