



MINNESOTA STATE

Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness
Committee

DATE: April 16, 2025

TITLE: Appointment of President for South Central College

☒ Action

☐ Review and Discussion

☒ *This item is required by policy*

PRESENTERS

Scott Olson, Chancellor

PURPOSE

A president for South Central College will be selected.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the announcement of the retirement of Dr. Annette Parker as President of South Central College, Chancellor Olson initiated a national search. The executive search firm Academic Search, Inc. was retained to assist with the recruitment of the position.

A search advisory committee was appointed. The members are:

Erin Haroldson, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Arts & Sciences
Kirstin Cronn-Mills, English Instructor
Darci Stanford, Early Childhood Education Instructor
Nicole Emerson, Asst. Director of Student Life
Edel Fernandez, Director of Admissions
Kelcey Woods- Nord, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships
John Harper, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Della Schmidt, Greater Mankato Growth
Nort Johnson, Faribault Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Bente, Faribault Public Schools Superintendent
Ashton Horejsi, Student Senate
Kailen Roeder, Student Senate Vice President

The following individuals provided support to the committee:

Michael Berndt, Search Chair, President – Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College
Brian Tieg, Vice President of Human Resources, South Central College

The position was advertised nationally in a variety of higher education and diversity publications. At the same time, the search consultant initiated an aggressive recruitment campaign. There was a total of forty-nine (49) applicants. From this pool, the search advisory committee selected eleven (11) individuals for initial interviews and forwarded its assessment of the candidates to the chancellor. On the committee's recommendation, Chancellor Olson selected four (4) finalists to participate in the system office interviews. Their interviews were conducted by Chancellor Olson, members of the chancellor's cabinet, Trustees Erlandson, Huebsch, and Richter.

Reference and background checks were completed.

After careful consideration and review, the chancellor selected one candidate to recommend to the Board of Trustees for full approval.

At this time, Chancellor Olson recommends Ritu Raju to be the president of South Central College.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Olson, appoints Ritu Raju as President of South Central College, with the anticipated effective date of July 1, 2025 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 Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Date Presented to the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee: 04/16/25

Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: 04/16/25

Date of Implementation: 07/01/25