



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on January 29, 2025.

Trustees present: George Soule, Chair; Dawn Erlandson, Vice Chair; Jay Cowles, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Jana Johnson, Jacqueline Johnson, Roger Moe, Chris Richter, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo

Staff present: Scott Olson, Chancellor

The meeting materials and audio recording of the meeting are available on the [Board of Trustees website](#).

Chair Soule called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

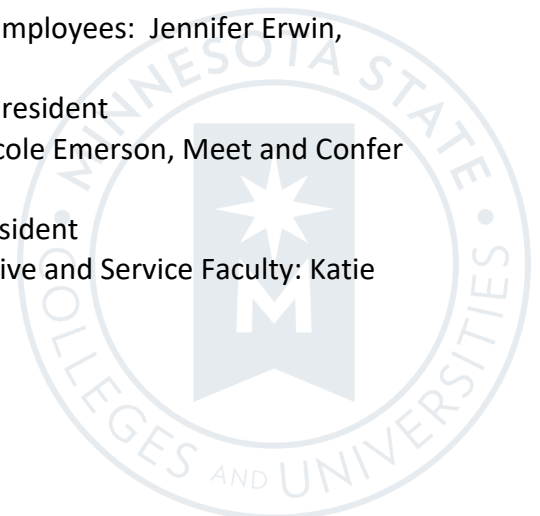
Student Associations and Bargaining Units

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

- LeadMN: Christian Catano, Vice President
- Students United: Sierra Roiger, State Chair
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: Jennifer Erwin, President, Minnesota State Policy Committee
- International Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees: Nicole Emerson, Meet and Confer Chair
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Katie Jackson

Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson

Chair Soule, Vice Chair Erlandson, and trustees-



These are definitely interesting times! Yesterday as the board was meeting, the system office team and our campus leaders immediately dove into understanding the implications of the federal funding pause that was announced on Monday evening. And then as we sat here this morning, it was announced that there was a new memo that rescinded Monday's original memo which was welcomed news.

My deep appreciation to all for their thoughtful leadership as many reached out to colleagues at both the state and national level to ask questions and to gather guidance so that we could provide clarity to our campuses, students, and employees. Events like these are fast-moving and accurate information is not always available as soon as we would like it to be.

I fully anticipate in the coming days there will be more messages coming from Washington and we will continue to give care to the individuals who may be affected and communicate with all of you. A thank you to all, for your patience and understanding through the ambiguity.

I am pleased that in a few weeks, Vice Chair Erlandson, Trustee Richter and our government relations team will be making the rounds on capitol hill perhaps to get a lay of the land and insight how we navigate this changing landscape. And if things weren't interesting enough at the federal level, we continue to navigate the changing landscape of the state legislature.

My thanks to all who joined us in the Senate Higher Education Committee. George will make comments specifically about the Senate hearing and how well received it was by the committee. We had anticipated being in the House yesterday too and we had a tremendous three-day presentation which would have brought over 20 testifiers from campuses and the system to tell our story. These folks remain in the wings ready to be called to the stage when the House convenes – we have an important story to share with the legislature and stand ready to do so when called upon. We will start that story telling during the six Legislative Breakfasts which kick-off at the end of February.

And with that, Chair, I turn it back to you.

Chair's Report

Thank you, Chancellor. We had a great presentation at yesterday's Senate Higher Education Committee as well as a great AI presentation with Chancellor Hagerott. I wanted to give a brief POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training Board) update. At the November 2024 Minnesota State Board of Trustees meeting, POST's Executive Director shared the proposed changes to POST Board policy that would impact Minnesota State's Professional Peace Officer Education (PPOE) programs. On January 23, 2025, the System office staff and several presidents with PPOE programs met with

the Executive Director from POST. This meeting was to reengage POST in its partnership with Minnesota State programs. The results of this meeting reinforced our long-standing relationship with POST. It was found that many stakeholders appreciate the current PPOE structure and want to continue to work with higher education peace officer training providers, whatever that may look like, to prepare the law enforcement workforce for the State of Minnesota. We believe this is a positive path forward and recognition of the long-standing partnership with Minnesota State as the largest educator of peace officer candidates in the State. The POST Board will reconvene in April to have a vote on the proposed language.

Thank you again to Metro State for hosting us!

Consent Agenda

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

Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Jana Johnson	Yes
Trustee Jacquie Johnson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of November 20, 2024**
- 2. Minutes of November 22, 2024 Special Meeting**
- 3. Proposed Committee Charter Revision: Outreach and Engagement Committee**
- 4. Proposed Amendment to Policy 4.1 Personnel Plan for Minnesota State Administrators (Second Reading)**
- 5. Contracts Requiring Board Approval: Third Party Owners Representation for NextGen Student Implementation, System Office**
- 6. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.43 Accreditation (Second Reading)**
- 7. Restructuring of Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College**

Board Standing Committee Reports

The board received reports from meetings of the following committees:

- Outreach and Engagement, Kathy Sheran, Chair
- Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Jim Grabowska, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Tim Huebsch, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Joint Audit and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, Dawn Erlandson and Jay Cowles, Co-Chairs

Adjournment

Chair Soule adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.