



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on January 24, 2024.

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

Trustees absent: Micah Coatie, Idman Ibrahim, April Nishimura

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 11:06 a.m.

Student Associations and Bargaining Units

Chair Moe stated that comments from student associations and bargaining units will occur prior to the Chancellor and Chair Reports. Both groups were invited to submit written remarks and were given the opportunity to address the board in person. In person (VIRTUAL) remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Marweh Asif, President and Samir Khan, Vice Chair

Instead of speaking separately, bargaining units provided a joint statement regarding payroll issues. Bargaining unit leaders present included:

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME): Minnesota State Policy Committee - Jennifer Erwin, President
- Inter Faculty Organization (IFO): Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE): Nicole Emerson, Minnesota State Meet & Confer Chair
- Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF): Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty (MSUAAF): Kristy Modrow, President

Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson

Thank you, Chair Moe. I appreciate our Bargaining Unit leaders speaking about these issues to us. In the future, while we work on these problems, please contact either Vice Chancellor Davis or me directly so that we can begin to fix these issues.

I would like to share some Executive Search Updates. First, I want to show appreciation to both the Winona State University Search Advisory Committee (SAC), who recently wrapped up their semi-finalists interviews, and to President Jayasuriya for his leadership as chair of the SAC. We will conduct finalist interviews the week of February 12th with visits to both Winona, Rochester, and the system office.

Next, we launched the Northland Community and Technical College search last week for the interim president position and look forward to identifying finalists to meet students, faculty, and staff at both campuses and the system office.

Finally, I am conducting listening sessions St. Cloud State University on February 12th. The schedule is out to meet with students, faculty, staff, and community members. Following my visit, we will launch the search to identify an interim president for SCSU. Thank you to the trustees who are participating on the interview panels.

Regarding Bonding Recommendations, the Governor announced his bonding recommendations and although they may not be what we had hoped for at this stage of the game, we appreciate his support of higher education. This is a long game and just the first move, and we will continue to advocate fiercely for what our campuses need to deliver the education that our students deserve. A part of that advocacy is to get out our story about our needs and so next week I will participate in a long-standing tradition of chancellors...getting in the car with Bernie Omann and traveling the state to visit editorial boards in the communities we serve. This year – I am excited to share that Interim President Jeff Ettinger of the University of Minnesota will join me on some of those visits. It is our goal to raise the collective voice of public higher education across the state and express our needs for public infrastructure support.

Finally, just a summary of External Activities. I had the opportunity to attend along with Vice Chair Soule and Trustee Richter – the LeadMN Gala where we celebrated scholarship awardees. Last Friday, I attended the Students United Community Leader Fellowship Fundraiser and Community Celebration. This Friday, I will be speaking at the 15th Power in Diversity Leadership Conference held at St. Cloud State University.

In mid-February, I will be speaking at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce conference where I will have the opportunity to speak directly to all the local chamber presidents. A few weeks after that Executive Director Shannon Bryant will be a speaker at the Chamber's annual Workforce Summit that includes chambers and business leaders.

Given our conversation yesterday – our colleges and universities cannot do this work alone, so these opportunities help to get our message out there and to share our value proposition and role to help advance the state’s workforce.

Chair Moe – that concludes my remarks.

Chair’s Report

Thank you, Chancellor. I will be joining part of the editorial board meetings that the Chancellor mentioned and wanted to remind you of the Legislative breakfasts coming up in February-you are all invited. As you may recall from our Mankato meeting in November, we discussed the possibility of having the trustees and U of M Regents get together. We have decided to wait until Summer or Fall to attempt that.

I was able to attend MSU-Moorhead’s commencement in December, that was an enjoyable occasion. We also held a Special Board Meeting in December to finish up the last contract we negotiated, so we have that behind us. Vice Chair Soule and I continue to get updates from General Counsel Goings and continue to stay on call with the Chancellor, so we have constant contact.

Before I move to the consent agenda, I just want to say that I really appreciate the engagement of the Board as well as the presenters’ information and presentations. It has been a great day and a half!

Consent Agenda

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was conducted. Trustee Grabowska motioned and Trustee Cowles 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 for Vote
Trustee Nishimura	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 15, 2023
2. Minutes of December 19, 2023 Special Meeting
3. Contracts Requiring Board Approval
 - a. Institutional Effectiveness and Technology Renovation, Metropolitan State University
 - b. McElroy G Hall HVAC Upgrade, Minnesota State University, Mankato
 - c. Updated Office Space Lease, System Office

New Business

Chair Moe asked if there was any new business. Trustee Cirillo brought forward a motion related to the Joint meeting of the Audit and Outreach and Engagement Committee held on January 23, 2024 which included review and discussion of results of the recent audit of customized contract training programs. The motion was as follows:

The Minnesota State Board of Trustees is supportive of contract training and recognizes its strategic importance to Minnesota State and the State of Minnesota. The Board of Trustees endorses the creation of a definition for customized contract training, the establishment of best practices, and the creation of individualized implementation plans for each college and university. The board charges the chancellor and his team with providing an update to the board in four (4) months.

Trustee Cowles seconded and a roll call vote was conducted. 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 for Vote
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the motion.

Board Standing Committee Reports

The board received reports from meetings of the following committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair

Trustee Reports

Several brief trustee reports were heard by Vice Chair Soule, Trustee Tefer, and Trustee Erlandson.

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.