



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
Board of Trustees

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME:** Academic and Student Affairs

**DATE:** October 18, 2022

**TITLE:** Academic and Student Affairs Planning Framework

Proposed New Policy or  
Amendment to Existing Policy

Approvals Required by  
Policy

Other Approvals

Monitoring/Compliance

Information

**PRESENTERS**

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**PURPOSE**

To provide background on planning and key priorities in the Academic and Student Affairs division of the system office.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In 2018 Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) initiated a planning process to identify the vision, mission and guiding principles for the division. In revisiting those commitments, we have reaffirmed that vision, mission, and guiding principles continue to guide and inspire our work, and assist the division in working toward our Equity 2030 goals and supporting the imperatives and focus areas in the Chancellor/System Office Workplan.

The vision of Minnesota State Academic and Student Affairs is to be a national leader in transforming higher education systems and practices to improve student outcomes and eliminate disparities. This will require that we commit ourselves to working in a particular way and with a specific mindset:

- We will be known nationally as a system that is continually evolving and one that embraces and thrives on creating new and more effective ways to educate and serve students, our communities, and our state.
- We will pursue intentional, equity-focused, and evidence-based solutions to address the problems of today and tomorrow.
- We will sustain rigor in our work – holding high standards and expectations of our students, our partners, and ourselves.
- We will approach our work with intentionality and compassion – working with integrity, humility, and caring, accepting people where they are and moving them forward without sacrificing standards or expectations.

ASA will think and act differently to eliminate barriers that inhibit student access and student success by fostering innovation and being more strategic in our approaches to support and serve our students. ASA will implement change through the three key principles to effectively implement Minnesota State Guided Learning Pathways (the student success framework for Equity 2030) across all colleges and universities in the Minnesota State system. These principles support and align with the three strategic objectives in the Chancellor/System Office Workplan described in greater detail below: Equity 2030, Financial Sustainability, and Transformational Change.

To achieve these ends, we will re-envision and re-structure our work around three key principles and practices, and identify annual and multi-year initiatives to advance our work.

### **Strategic Enrollment Management**

*Re-envisioning and enhancing the entire student experience to improve student success and effectively manage enrollment.* Strategic enrollment management encompasses the entirety of a college's or university's work to identify, recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate students in the context of the college's or university's mission and the communities they serve.

### **Minnesota State Guided Learning Pathways**

*Re-envisioning learning pathways to create multiple and equitable paths to development and credentials for lifelong success.* Endorsed by the Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee in November of 2020, Minnesota State Guided Learning Pathways is a framework that seeks to streamline a student's journey by focusing on (1) curricular and program design/delivery, (2) comprehensive orientation and first-year experience, and (3) holistic advising and comprehensive student support.

### **Innovation and Evolution**

*Re-envisioning higher education as a collective and collaborative enterprise where innovation and evolution are integral to our culture.* To achieve the ambitious goal of Equity 2030 and to respond to the rapid and ongoing changes in the cultural, economic, and political context in which higher education operates, we will need to both evolve existing models and innovate to develop altogether new models to meet the needs of current and future students.

### **ASA Alignment with Chancellor/System Office Workplan**

The Chancellor/System Office Workplan is a framework that serves as a set of guideposts for multi-year planning. The Workplan is not a comprehensive list of all the collective work that is being undertaken at the system office nor all the activities where the Chancellor is engaged, but is reflective of the top priorities as we move towards our shared Equity 2030 goal, shore up our organization to be programmatically and financially sustainable, and respond to the continual changes in higher education.

In the Chancellor/System Office fiscal year 2022 workplan, three strategic objectives were identified: Equity 2030, Financial Sustainability, and Transformational Change. To advance the

Equity 2030 strategic objective, the Board of Trustees endorsed the Minnesota State Guided Learning Pathways as a framework to approach our student success and equity goals in the pursuit of meeting the goal of Equity 2030: By 2030, Minnesota State will eliminate the educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university.

Strategic enrollment management also supports Equity 2030 by taking a comprehensive approach to planning for and supporting the entire student lifecycle. A primary aim is to ensure that educational equity gaps are addressed at each point in a student's journey from admission to persistence to completion. As a corollary benefit, our work on both Minnesota State Guided Learning Pathways and strategic enrollment management help support the strategic objective of financial sustainability of our colleges and universities.

Finally, innovation and evolution in ASA help support the strategic objective related to transformational change. In order to make progress on our ambitious goals, we recognize that we will need to both focus and align our efforts, and innovate and evolve how we do our work. That will require incremental change to existing models and development of new models to continually respond in meeting student needs and ensure that they make progress toward their educational goals.