



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 22, 2022.

Trustees present: Jay Cowles, Chair; Rudy Rodriguez, Vice Chair; Asani Ajogun, Victor Ayemobuwa, Alex Cirillo, Dawn Erlandson, Jerry Janezich, Roger Moe, April Nishimura, Kathy Sheran, George Soule, Cheryl Tefer, Michael Vekich

Trustees absent: Javier Morillo, Oballa Oballa

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 438. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Cowles called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Chair Cowles, Vice Chair Rodriguez, and trustees:

First off, as this is the final board meeting of this fiscal year, I would like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to this board – my 15 bosses – for your willingness to serve in these volunteer roles. Each of you bring to Minnesota State a deep commitment to higher education and the deeply understands and appreciates the transformative power of higher education and the difference that our 33 colleges and universities make for the state of Minnesota.

Chair Cowles and Vice Chair Rodriguez – thank you specifically for your leadership of the board and the advice and support that you have provided to me and my team over the last year.

Chair Cowles – let me take a moment to thank you. Over the last three years, we have accomplished some great work together. I know that neither of us ever expected to navigate a global pandemic together but with your steady guidance our colleges and universities continued to serve students and are ready to apply the lessons learned in the post-pandemic landscape.

Leadership Transitions

This time of the year brings about leadership transitions not only at the board level but across Minnesota State.

First, I know we've recognized their leadership in prior meetings. I think you call this the Minnesota good-bye – thank you to our statewide leaders. Brent Jeffers, Tracy Rahim, Matt Williams, Axel Kylander, and Emma Zellmer who have provided leadership to their membership during some challenging times. We may not always agree on every point, but we do align on the importance of the work we do as Minnesota State.

Thank you also to Jennifer Erwin and Jerry Jeffries who will be continuing in their respective roles at the state level with AFSCME and MAPE.

In addition, St. Cloud Technical & Community College President Annesa Cheek and Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College President Faith Hensrud are completing their final weeks of their leadership serving their institutions and surrounding regions.

We wish President Cheek well as she moves onto a new challenge as president at Frederick Community College where she will continue to bring front and center her commitment to student-centered learning and the equitable success of all students.

President Hensrud has been a tremendous leader and has helped to advance the institutions commitment to serving indigenous students and that they become a preferred destination for serving indigenous students. She will be close by and will trade balancing meetings with grandparent duties for little Alice.

At the cabinet level – we are also experiencing our own transitions.

First, an official welcome to Amy Jorgenson, Chief Audit Officer, on her first official day! Nothing like starting work on a slow day.

Her predecessor, Eric Wion, will be helping with Amy's transition over the next few weeks and then I know will be looking forward to serving as the captain of his new home on the lake. Eric, thank you for your leadership and maturation of the Minnesota State Office of Internal Audit.

Ron Anderson has completed his last official board meeting as the senior vice chancellor – a major event that he gets to check-off the list I've been told. Ron, thank you for your leadership of academic and student affairs and for your years of service to the students, faculty, and staff of Minnesota State.

The good news is that Ron isn't done quite yet – and in fact, he will be closer to the board as he begins moving his office down to the 4th floor at the end of the week. Ron will continue through September serving as the special advisor to the chancellor. Over

the course of the next few months, Ron will assist with the onboarding and transition of our new senior vice chancellor – Satasha Green-Stephen; assist in standing up the Center for Data Access and Analytics; and continue to identify opportunities for the system to support our colleges and universities enrollment management efforts.

I look forward to our July meeting where the newest members of the system leadership will be joining us:

- John Hoffman, President of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical college
- Joy Bodin, interim president of Hennepin Technical College
- Lori Kloos, interim president of St. Cloud Technical & Community College

Legislative Update

I truly wish my legislative update had a bit more length or any length for that matter. As we all know the legislative session adjourned without agreement on major tax and spend issues or the capital investment bill. We continue to be in conversations with policymakers particularly in regard to Minnesota State's infrastructure needs and as we all know we cannot wish HEAPR projects away. Please know we will continue to press our case for a robust bonding bill.

50th Anniversary

In closing, tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, by President Richard Nixon. These amendments made historical changes for education.

First, the passage of Title IX changed the landscape of education. Just thirty-seven words in that amendment eliminated sex-based discrimination to ensure all students – both male and female – had access and equality in education. This act dramatically increased the number of women participating in athletics at all levels.

Second, these amendments created the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, later named the Pell Grant in honor of its sponsor Senator Claiborne Pell. Since 1972 the Pell Grant program has helped over 80 million American students access higher education.

Last year, over 50,000 Minnesota State students were awarded more than \$187 million in Pell Grants.

Pell Grants are critical investments for our students. Minnesota State has continued to support the doubling of the Pell Grant investments at the federal level, expansion to include short-term programs, and the expansion of the second chance Pell grant program to provide access to individuals who are incarcerated.

I understand that I will be tweeting tomorrow celebrating this special anniversary.

And with that, Chair Cowles, for the final time, that concludes my remarks.

Chair's Report

Thank you, Chancellor Malhotra. As we gather for our final meeting of FY2022, I can't help but look back on the past year of meetings. While we spent the first half of the year in remote meeting mode, I am thankful that we were able to resume in-person meetings in March. I am also grateful to trustees and presenters for their flexibility and patience as we made a shift to a hybrid approach to board meetings.

As shared during past meetings, Trustee Vekich, Chair of the Audit Committee, and I have conducted a thorough review of our workplace policies and related procedures since early March. An internal review of Board Policy 1B.1 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education had already been launched by the Chancellor last fall, and Trustee Vekich and I added the perspectives of trustees to the process, working with the Office of General Counsel, the Office of Internal Auditing, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion. This work revealed some recommendations for improvement which have been incorporated in several policies, procedures and practices. Proposed amendments to Board Policy 1B.1 have been forwarded by the DEI Committee for board approval after a second reading today. The related System Procedure 1B.1.1 Report/Complaint of Discrimination/Harassment Investigation and Resolution is currently being reviewed and earlier today the DEI Committee received an update on the progress of this work. We continue to encourage all within the Minnesota State system to review the changes and offer feedback. In addition, the related Respectful Workplace procedure is currently being reviewed, both for updating and improvement, and the resulting work will be shared widely for input throughout Minnesota State.

We have also worked with the chancellor to codify the necessary communication protocols which will be used going forward for contract extensions for presidents and vice chancellors which is required in Board Policy 1A.4, System Administration, Appointment of Administrators. To better align policy, similar language has been proposed to Board Policy 4.2 Appointment of Presidents. Proposed amendments to both policies received a second reading at yesterday's Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee and will come in front of the full board for approval shortly.

Finally, we initiated a national survey by Baker Tilly of similar higher ed institutions about their employment contracts and practices with regards to our presidents and vice chancellors. The survey results are due this summer. Our goal is to ensure we are attracting the best possible talent for these positions while utilizing terms and practices that are best practices for Minnesota State.

We are confident that the action steps the board has taken to move forward, along with work by the chancellor and staff, will serve to advance our policies to ensure they reflect the vision and values of Minnesota State.

I turn now to the topic of the legislative session. Over the past several months Minnesota State campuses have appreciated the opportunity to host capital investment committees, as well as members of the Walz administration, to see our infrastructure needs firsthand. The Chancellor and several of my colleagues on the board have attended these important visits. On behalf of Minnesota State, I would like to call on the legislature and the governor to engage in a special session in order to -- at a minimum -- pass a robust bonding bill that invests in mission-critical infrastructure at Minnesota State, which needs immediate attention.

And, as we look at the year ahead, I want to note a few things. We will hold a joint meeting with the Leadership Council in mid-July and will also gather for the annual board retreat on September 20-21. After two years of holding our retreat virtually due to the pandemic, I am looking forward to meeting in-person this year. I am also thankful that after two attempts to plan a retreat at Riverland Community College in Austin, President Atewologun has invited us back to hold our retreat in Austin...surely the third time will be the charm! We will resume regular board meetings in October.

And lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize and extend our gratitude to Trustee Asani Ajogun and Trustee Oballa Oballa, whose appointments as student trustees conclude this summer. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Minnesota State, I thank both of them for their valuable contributions and service. I personally have appreciated their genuine care for the system and the Board's work, and the insightful questions and comments they have brought, reflecting the student experience. They have been a clear example of the fact that the diverse voices that make up Minnesota State are essential to effective governance and a strong and vibrant education system.

Resolution Honoring Ron Anderson

Trustees Cirillo and Tefer honored outgoing Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Ron Anderson with brief remarks and with the introduction of a resolution honoring his service to Minnesota State.

Trustee Tefer made the motion to approve the resolution and Trustee Moe seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Yes
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes

Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

Consent Agenda

Chair Cowles asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Vekich made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Trustee Moe seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, May 18, 2022**
- 2. Proposed Committee Charter Revisions (Second Reading)**
 - a. Finance and Facilities Committee**
 - b. Outreach and Engagement Committee**
 - c. Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee**
- 3. Revised FY2023 and Proposed FY2024 meeting calendar (Second Reading)**
- 4. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 1A.2 Board of Trustees***
- 5. Mission Statement Change: Northland Community & Technical College**
- 6. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.2 State Residency (Second Reading)**
- 7. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.21 Undergraduate Course and Credit Transfer and the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (Second Reading)**
- 8. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.30 College Program Advisory Committees (Second Reading)**
- 9. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.38 Career Information (Second Reading)**
- 10. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.39 Transfer Rights and Responsibilities (Second Reading)**

- 11. Review and Approve Fiscal Year 2023 Internal Auditing Plan**
- 12. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 1A.4, System Administration, Appointment of Administrators (Second Reading)**
- 13. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 4.2 Appointment of Presidents (Second Reading)**
- 14. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 1B.1 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education (Second Reading)**
- 15. Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
 - a. Air Handler Replacement-Automobile Shops, Lake Superior College**
 - b. Fixed Wing Aviation Training, Lake Superior College**
 - c. Campus Security Contract, Metropolitan State University**
 - d. HVAC Upgrades, Granite Falls Campus, Minnesota West Community and Technical College**
 - e. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Federal Grant Construction Contract, St. Cloud Technical and Community College**
 - f. Cable TV for Residence Halls, Winona State University**
 - g. Course Placement Master Contract, System Office**
 - h. Zoom Video Conferencing and Phone Services, System Office**
- 16. Students United Fee Proposal (Second Reading)**

Board Standing Committee Reports

Finance Committee, Roger Moe, Chair

For the benefit of meeting attendees, Committee Chair Moe read aloud the entire motion to approve FY23 annual operating budget.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

FY2023 Annual Operating Budget Update-Finance Committee

The Board of Trustees adopts the following motion:

- Adopt the annual total all funds operating budget for fiscal year 2023 as shown in Table 9.*
- Approve the proposed tuition structure recommendations and differential tuition rationale for fiscal year 2023 as detailed in Attachments 1A through 1H.*
- Approve continuation of the special contracted tuition rate for Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC) of \$150 per credit for its pilot program with the United States Naval Community College, allowing active service members to take up to 30 credits per academic year in existing courses at ATCC.*
- Tuition rates are effective summer term or fall term 2022 at the discretion of the president. The chancellor or designee is authorized to approve any required technical adjustments, and is requested to incorporate any approvals at the time fiscal year 2024 tuition recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees.*

- *Continue the policy of market-driven tuition for closed enrollment courses, customized training, and non-credit instruction, continuing education, and contract postsecondary enrollment option programs.*
- *Approve the Revenue Fund and related fiscal year 2023 fees for room and board, student union, wellness and recreation facilities, and parking ramps/surface lots as detailed in Attachments 2A through 2E, including any housing fees that the campuses may charge for occupancy outside the academic year.*
- *Authorize the chancellor or designee to enter into an agreement with the Learning Network of Minnesota to provide the funding appropriated to the organization in Minnesota Laws 2021, First Special Session, Chapter 2, in the amount of \$4,115,000.*

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

The board also received reports from June meetings of the following committees:

- Committee of the Whole, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Audit Committee, Mike Vekich, Chair
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Rudy Rodriguez, Chair
- Outreach and Engagement Committee, Dawn Erlandson, Chair
- Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Joint Meeting: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, Co-Chair Rudy Rodriguez
- Nominating Committee, Mike Vekich, Chair

Other Business, Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chair Mike Vekich recommended Roger Moe as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. He then called for any other nominations, of which there were none. He then declared nominations closed. Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Abstain
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Incoming Chair Roger Moe shared brief comments.

Nominating Committee Chair Mike Vekich recommended George Soule as the new Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. He then called for any other nominations, of which there were none. He then declared nominations closed. Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Yes
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Rodriguez	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Abstain
Trustee Tefer	Yes
Trustee Vekich	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Incoming Vice Chair George Soule shared brief comments.

Comments from Outgoing Chair Cowles

Outgoing Chair Cowles shared some reflections on his tenure as board chair and acknowledged his appreciation of his peers.

Student Associations and Bargaining Units

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks and were given the opportunity to address the board in person. Written remarks were provided by LeadMN, Students United AFSCME, IFO, Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty, and the Equity 2030 Coalition and have been posted to the board website.

In person remarks were provided by:

- LeadMN: Alex Kylander, President
- Students United: Emma Zellmer, Outgoing State Chair; Kylie Weber, Incoming State Chair
- Inter Faculty Organization: Brent Jeffers, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Matt Dempsey, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Alex Kromminga, President

Trustee Reports

Trustee Erlandson noted that she recently attended a Foundation event at Minneapolis College President's Giving Circle. There were no additional remarks by any others Trustees this month.

The next board meetings are scheduled for October 18-19, 2022.

Adjournment

Chair Cowles adjourned the meeting at 5:47p.m.