



**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2022**

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on October 19, 2022.

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

Trustees absent: Asani Ajogun, Dawn Erlandson, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 92. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

**Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra**

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees:

I'd like to thank President Johnson, the Ridgewater College community, and the City of Hutchinson for hosting the board for the last few days. We've received a warm welcome and have enjoyed meeting so many faculty, staff, and students. We appreciated the opportunity to travel to Hutchinson High School to learn about the Tiger Path Academies, which is a wonderful example of private-public partnerships that provide hands-on experiences rooted in real-world workforce opportunities. It is this type of learning that provides strong pathways for the students of today to not only become our future students but the future workforce our state needs. Indeed, it's a model for others to emulate.

Chair Moe, at this time I would like to share some personal news. Serving as Chancellor of Minnesota State over the past six years has been a singular honor and the greatest privilege of my professional life. But, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Today I am announcing that I plan to retire effective August 1, 2023, at the end of my current contract. My decision to retire was motivated by personal considerations. It was a tough call and, I must say, bittersweet. It is very hard to walk away while we are in the midst of leading and redesigning a higher education system for the 21st century. However, my partner Laura and I are absolutely convinced this is the right decision for

us to move on to our next adventures. However, I will be running hard through to the finish line.

There is much work to do in the coming year to deliver on our commitments to our students and to our great state. Although the work ahead is challenging and difficult, I am enthusiastically looking forward to our collective efforts. As we discussed earlier today, we need to craft a bold legislative budget request and then build a strong coalition of internal stakeholders and external partners to mount an aggressive advocacy for the request. We need to work hard to ensure that the NextGen project is appropriately resourced and positioned for successful culmination. And, most importantly, we need to continue to deepen and enhance the infrastructure to accelerate progress to meet our Equity 2030 goals, enable our institutions to pursue programmatic and financially sustainable paths, and provide Minnesota the leaders, talent, and workforce for today and tomorrow.

I am humbled and inspired by the grit, determination and resilience of our students, who, as you all know, often must overcome many challenges to persist and complete their educational journey. And I find it exhilarating to work alongside 14,000 committed faculty and staff who provide exceptional stewardship for the educational experience of our students, and for the communities our colleges and universities serve. Their ingenuity, creativity, and innovative spirit never ceases to amaze me as they continually adapt to the everchanging landscape of higher education and are always ready to meet the challenges of the day. They ensure our colleges and universities are the doors of hope and opportunity for ALL Minnesotans, and are the major driver of social and economic vibrancy of the State.

In addition, I have a deep sense of gratitude to the presidents and other campus leaders of our 33 colleges and universities. They position our institutions to deliver on their potential and promise. I am grateful for their leadership and for their continued support and guidance. They make my work easier and joyful. And, I am indebted to my cabinet colleagues and other leaders and staff at the Minnesota State system office for their steadfast focus on appropriately supporting and promoting the success of our colleges and universities. I thank them for their continued support. It is an honor to work with them and learn from them. And to the Board of Trustees – my 15 bosses – thank you for your unwavering support.

And with that Chair Moe, that concludes my remarks.

### **Chair's Report**

Thank you, Chancellor Malhotra.

Let me begin by saying that this announcement is bittersweet for all of us as well. We will miss your warmth, compassion, and stewardship of the Minnesota State system. But we are also happy to see you transition into a well-earned retirement after 43 years of service in higher education. Under Chancellor Malhotra's leadership, Minnesota State

has navigated tremendous challenges. The system has emerged stronger and more committed than ever to providing an opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

With an unwavering commitment to higher education, Chancellor Malhotra's vision, authenticity, communication skills, and warm personal manner provide a critical touchstone for the 54 communities in which our campuses reside. A courageous and compassionate leader, he has been exceptional in meeting the moment – uniting our resolve and purpose, leading with heart, while providing impeccable crisis leadership. He has been at the forefront of leading systemic change and has maintained steadfast focus on the potential and future of Minnesota State.

Among his many achievements, Chancellor Malhotra was instrumental in the Board's adoption of Equity 2030 in 2019 – an aspirational goal of our system to close the educational equity gaps across our institutions by the year 2030. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, in August 2020, Dr. Malhotra convened a statewide taskforce on law enforcement education reform, bringing together a wide, diverse cross section of stakeholders to provide recommendations pertaining to an anti-racist law enforcement education. In October 2020, he joined community leaders with the 3M Community Coalition to help steer a \$50 million investment in higher education and workforce development. Attesting to a career of achievements, the Twin Cities Business magazine named Chancellor Malhotra a 'Notable Leader in Higher Education' in 2021.

Chancellor Malhotra has championed student success, educational equity, and a strong, diverse workforce to secure our state's long-term economic vibrancy. He has given us five years of outstanding leadership and his contributions to the system and the state of Minnesota are evident. His service has been nothing short of exemplary, and on behalf of the board, we are grateful for his service. The board remains committed to the current strategic priorities for our system and looks forward to working alongside the Chancellor, with the foot firmly on the pedal, to continue our path towards our Equity 2030 goals, sustainability in programming and finances, and assuring that our state remains economically vibrant. Devinder...I know I speak for many across the system and state when I say that I will miss your inspiration and your friendship and am glad that we still have you for another nine months. Please join me in congratulating the Chancellor on his decision and thanking him for his leadership.

Before moving on to other matters, I want to note that transition planning is already well underway and the timetable for next steps will be forthcoming. I would like to echo the Chancellor's gratitude to the Ridgewater College community. President Johnson and his team have worked to make us all feel welcome and our meeting successful, and I thank them for the hospitality and the opportunity to meet students, faculty and staff and to know this campus better. I was also pleased to be able to visit Hutchinson High School and their TigerPath program. It was wonderful to learn about this innovative program that allows students to explore career possibilities and find the right path for them. Lastly, I want to express appreciation to the Hutchinson business

and community partners that joined us earlier today. It was great to hear about the partnerships and the good work going on at Ridgewater.

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

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
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 Committee of the Whole Meeting, June 22, 2022**
- 2. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, June 22, 2022**
- 3. Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
  - a. Student Health Services Contract, Minneapolis Community and Technical College**
  - b. Student Affairs Renovation Construction Contract, Minneapolis Community and Technical College**
  - c. Strategic Retention Tool Contract Extension, North Hennepin Community College**
  - d. Campus Bookstore Operation Contract, St. Cloud State University**
  - e. Graduate Center Lease Extension, St. Cloud State University**
  - f. External Auditing Services Contract – Amendment #10, System Office**
  - g. ISRS Hardware Platform Upgrade, System Office**

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

The board received reports from October meetings of the following committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair

### **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 IFO

and have been posted to the board website.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Kaileigh Weber, State Chair
- Inter Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Matt Dempsey, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Alex Kromminga, President

### **Trustee Reports**

There were no additional remarks by any others trustees this month.

The next board meetings are scheduled for November 15-16, 2022.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.