



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

DATE: October 18, 2023

TITLE: Strategic Alignment and Communications of Academic and Student Affairs Priorities

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
John Hoffman, President, Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College
Deidra Peaslee, President, Saint Paul College

PURPOSE

This informational review and discussion will describe the consultative and communication structures used to advance key strategic priorities in academic and student affairs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2022 Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) reaffirmed the strategic priorities that would guide and inform ASA's role in advancing Equity 2030. Those three priority areas were as follows:

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.

Advancing these priorities and the initiatives associated with them requires ongoing attention to and reliance on both systemwide and college and university shared governance consultation and communication structures. That includes communication and engagement with the college and university presidents; senior campus leaders in academic and student affairs; student associations; faculty and staff bargaining units; other system office divisions; and, depending on the topic, other key communities of practice and stakeholders.

To provide a structured method for consultation, feedback, and engagement at the system level, ASA convenes representative bodies each year—councils, committees, and ad hoc working groups. These groups provide recommendations to the senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for consideration. The work of policy council will be highlighted as an example this structured process of engagement and consultation, and two presidents will provide their perspectives on shared governance and consultation at the college and university levels.

Please see also the included resource on shared governance in higher education from the Association of Governing Boards, “FAQs on Shared Governance” (2021).