



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on January 25, 2023.

Trustees present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Victor Ayemobuwa, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Jerry Janezich, April Nishimura, Kathy Sheran

Trustees absent: Asani Ajogun, Javier Morillo, Oballa Oballa, Cheryl Tefer

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#), starting on page 102. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees:

Today, my remarks are focused on our biennial budget request and capital request. We are at a critical juncture for our state and our system. The future of the state and that of our system is intrinsically tied. The state can't prosper if we are not firing on all cylinders. We have a strong obligation to get the message across not only to the Legislature but all Minnesotans.

As has been shared with the board, last week I had the opportunity to present to both the House and Senate Higher Education committees and Capital Investment committees. The discussion that occurred in all four committees was informative and engaging. I want to thank our team who helped to prepare us for these discussions and the trustees and presidents who attended the hearings.

When we set out to develop our biennial budget request we had one phrase that resonated in all our planning and discussions – BOLD. Be BOLD in what we envision our colleges and universities to need to enhance access for our students and the communities they serve; Be BOLD in what our students need to persist and succeed for themselves, their families, their communities and ultimately the state; And to Be BOLD in our advocacy. That is why we engaged in budget listening sessions across the state in

the fall. That is why we toured the state two weeks ago - joined by our presidents to meet with editorial boards to share our message. That is why our campus leaders are reaching out to their business and community partners asking for their support of our budget request.

Minnesota State appreciates that the state colleges and universities were figured prominently in Governor Walz higher education budget recommendation yesterday. However, the target though appreciated falls short of what is needed to ensure accessible public higher education as a possibility for the entirety of our state's future workforce, which is an economic imperative for Minnesota. The message we have received from our community partners was clear that they need a robust effort to plan to deliver more talented workers in every corner of the Minnesota and our proposal is key to that success.

Our biennial budget request will enable us to put in place an infrastructure that will increase the number of students we educate and our scale of operations. The student support and workforce development categories include initiatives that facilitate enhanced access and ability to persist and succeed for our students. Minnesota State Stabilization category makes a compelling case to appropriately resource our colleges and universities for them to bring about needed changes in the strategic positioning and business models to accomplish the expansion of number of students we educate and graduate. Our capital request was well received in both the House and Senate committees with a big emphasis on HEAPR. Tomorrow, the Governor will release his recommendation to the legislative and I am confident that his proposal will be robust for Minnesota State.

Even though the football season is coming to a close and a certain Cleveland team seems to have experienced a "rebuilding season" this year – something that I know Minnesota fans are well accustomed to – I can always find a way to incorporate a football analogy into my remarks. Although it may feel like we are in the locker room at half time trying to figure out what we are going to do when we retake the field – the reality of our situation is this. The game hasn't yet begun. We're still warming up in the tunnels. We have four FULL quarters to go. For this game, we need all our players fully prepared and ready for the game – it will be important that we continue the strong advocacy and partnership that we started this session with. I am appreciative of our statewide student associations and bargaining groups who have their advocacy days planned at the Capitol and the work that our presidents are doing both here in St. Paul and also back in their local communities.

Two quotes from President Kennedy come to mind as I look at the work ahead: One, ask not that the journey be easy; ask instead that it be worth it. Two, things do not happen, but rather, things are made to happen.

I am committed to remaining BOLD and I am committed to continuing to work with the Governor, legislators, and our partners during the entire legislative session to position Minnesota State to deliver for the students and communities we serve.

And with that Chair Moe, that concludes my remarks.

Chair's Report

Thank you, Chancellor Malhotra, for your remarks.

Thank you, Chancellor, for your remarks. I want to thank you and your team for your efforts up to this point in the legislative process. This past week we had the opportunity to present in the House and Senate Finance and Capital Investment committees. I am pleased to note that our message seemed to resonate with committee members.

I also want to call out the recent media swing which took us to Bemidji, Moorhead, Alexandria, Marshall, Mankato, Rochester, Winona, and the Twin Cities to generate support for our legislative ask. We will be sharing the results of that effort with the board and more importantly, we will be sharing the results with policymakers.

At the board's Executive Committee earlier this month, we discussed the advocacy plan that has been created to support our legislative efforts. I believe this plan is well thought out and we must maintain our focus on executing this plan.

The bottom line is this: what we need from the governor and the legislature is a better bottom line for our system. I appreciate the governor's support and recognize that Minnesota State fared well within the overall higher education budget. I also acknowledge that the governor's budget is twice what we ended up with last session. However, I am also keenly aware of what we heard consistently from our community and business partners across the state: they need Minnesota State to train and educate students to meet their workforce needs now and in the future. Minnesota State is a critical workforce development tool for the state and investments in the colleges and universities of Minnesota State are investments in the future economic vitality and prosperity of our state.

Chancellor, I know you are laser focused on this work. The message you are delivering to House and Senate committees has been clear and compelling. Your advocacy and leadership have been exemplary, and I am grateful for your efforts. I have confidence in our plan to advocate for what the system needs and, in our ability to tackle the work ahead.

I also want to note that we started this month's meeting with a joint meeting with Leadership Council – I was sorry to miss this session since it is always a great opportunity to connect with Leadership Council colleagues. However, I had a good excuse! I was at the House Higher Education committee meeting to support Minnesota State's advocacy for our FY24-25 biennial budget request. However, I heard positive

feedback about the presentation and discussion on the pandemic impact on the workforce.

Consent Agenda

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Grabowska made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Trustee Cirillo 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	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Absent

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, November 16, 2022**
- 2. Select Audit Firm for Systemwide External Auditing Services**
- 3. Select Audit Firm for Internal Auditing Services**
- 4. Revise Office of Internal Auditing Charter**
- 5. Proposed Amendment to Board Policies – Technical Changes**
 - a. Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration**
 - b. Policy 1A.4 System Administration Appointment of Administrators**
 - c. Policy 1C.2 Fraudulent and Other Dishonest Acts**
 - d. Policy 1D.1 Office of Internal Auditing**
- 6. Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
 - a. Crawford B. Hall Restroom Renovation, Minnesota State University, Mankato**
 - b. Social Media Ad Placement, Minnesota State University, Mankato**
 - c. eProcurement, Contracts, and Sourcing Enterprise Software Renewal, System Office**
 - d. External Auditing Services, FY23-25, System Office**
 - e. Internal Auditing Services, FY23-25, System Office**

Board Standing Committee Reports

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair

Committee Chair Soule reported that that committee approved recommendations for two appointments.

Firstly, the Workforce Organization Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Joy Bodin as President of Hennepin Technical College, with the anticipated effective date of January 25, 2023, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. 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	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Absent

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Joy Bodin was introduced to make remarks.

Secondly, the Workforce Organization Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Lori Kloos as President of St. Cloud Technical & Community College, with the anticipated effective date of January 25, 2023, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the

board and chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. 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	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Absent

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Lori Kloos was introduced to make remarks.

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

- Academic and Student Affairs, Alex Cirillo, Vice Chair (
- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Outreach and Engagement Committee, Dawn Erlandson, 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 AFSCME and Students United and have been posted to the board website.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Lead MN: Karina Villeda, Vice President
- Students United: Kaileigh Weber, State Chair
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: Jennifer Erwin, President – Minnesota State Policy Committee
- Inter Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President

- Minnesota State College Faculty: Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Alex Kromminga, President

Trustee Reports

No additional remarks were made by trustees.

The next board meetings are scheduled for March 21-22, 2023.

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.