



**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2024**

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on March 20, 2024.

Trustees present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Idman Ibrahim, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, Christopher Richter, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Micah Coatie, April Nishimura

Staff present: Scott Olson, Chancellor

Meeting materials and audio recordings are available on the [Board of Trustees website](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

**Student Associations and Bargaining Units**

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks and given the opportunity to address the board in person. No written remarks were provided.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Marwah Asif, President
- Joint remarks made by Jennifer Erwin, President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Minnesota State Policy Committee and Nicole Emerson, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees Minnesota State Meet & Confer Chair
- Inter Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Liz Steinborn-Gurley, Minnesota State University Mankato Campus President

**Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson**

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees

We have two more searches to complete this year for Northland Community and Technical College and St. Cloud State University. Finalists will be announced next Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and will complete system office interviews and campus interviews the week of April 1. I look forward to bringing my recommendation for both to the Board's April meeting.

Now onto Legislative Updates. A joint commentary ran in Monday's Star Tribune with Interim President Jeff Ettinger focusing on the need for asset preservation for both higher ed systems. We have one more legislative breakfast Thursday morning – to date we have had over 30 legislators attend. This has been a HUGE hit this year! Dee Dee Peaslee and Saint Paul College have done a phenomenal job hosting these, as in years past. These are great opportunities to connect with legislators around the state and with college and university leaders and business and community leaders in their districts. Appreciation to all those who have attended and to the trustees who have joined for those early mornings.

I have found inspiration from these morning conversations and have been reminded at each and every one of these – how deeply the education and training we provide is embedded throughout the communities we serve. We know the stats of how many students we serve and the careers they pursue. The three Burnsville first responders killed in the line of duty were our students as well.

Now for some fun celebration updates. There have been a number of exciting things that have happened that I wanted to highlight. First, Achieving the Dream, a national organization committed to increasing the success of community college students, awarded Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College the 2024 Leah Meyer Austin Award, its highest recognition given annually to a college in the ATD Network. The award signifies a college's adoption of practices and strategies leading to a student-focused culture, notable increases in student outcomes, and reduction of equity gaps. Fond du Lac was also the first tribal college in the nation to receive Leader College status in 2021.

Second, Karen Znajda, a nursing instructor at Northland Community and Technical College, will receive the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award from the American Association of Community Colleges for her outstanding teaching contributions next month. The award was established in 2018 as a way to recognize teaching professionals who make a significant impact on student success through the skills and innovations they bring to the classroom. Specifically, award winners demonstrate a passion for the students in the classroom and a willingness to support their students both inside and outside the classroom. Znajda has been teaching full-time for the Northland nursing program since 2004. She teaches classes both on campus and online, as well as in the skills lab for the Practical Nursing Program and the Registered Nursing program. Her extensive experience in the nursing field allows her to make a significant impact in the classroom. Before her career in academia, Znajda worked in various healthcare settings, including long-term care, home health care, rural hospital settings, and a surgical nursing department for 15 years. She also has 14 years of experience as an EMT.

Last celebratory announcement involves the Drive for 5 Workforce Initiative. Yesterday at Hennepin Technical College – Governor Walz and DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek announced the recipients of nearly \$20 million in grants to grow MN's workforce in the Drive for 5 Workforce Initiative – which is a new effort to prepare more Minnesotans for high-demand jobs in five occupational areas: technology, trades, caring professions,

manufacturing and education. The grant recipients will train and place an estimated 1,200 Minnesotans over the next 15 months in high-demand jobs, benefiting an estimated 3,000 Minnesota businesses. Minnesota State recipients include: Minnesota State Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, Hennepin Technical College, Pine Technical and Community College, Alexandria Technical and Community College and the Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association received a grant that partners with 7 of our institutions!

### **Chair's Report**

At the January Executive Committee meeting there was discussion about the need for the board to focus on high level strategic planning that anticipates the needs of the system in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, examination of the emerging education market, market competition and positioning, maintaining relevance into the future, examining integration of AI, and the role of the system's financial framework in preparing for the future.

To thoroughly explore and consider these matters, I am convening an ad hoc committee that will explore the following: the role of the board related to high-level strategic planning and preparing the system for the future; and governance structure and processes required to support board engagement in high-level strategic planning. I will ask this committee to provide a recommendation to the board on these matters at the board's next retreat. If you are interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please let Kari know and I will follow up with convening the committee.

As the Chancellor mentioned, the legislative breakfasts hosted by Saint Paul College continue to be a huge success. Thanks to Dee Dee and Saint Paul College for their help in making these events successful.

You should have received a list of Commencements – please review the schedule and let Amanda know which ceremonies you'd like to attend. This is always an enjoyable and rewarding part of being a trustee.

The message that the Chancellor got from the Governor was the same message every other leader in state government got, and that was that there will be little or no additional monies added. That was disappointing but we have a full court press going on capital budget requests and our Government Relations group is doing a great job on that.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Moe stated that during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held earlier in the morning, Trustee Janezich had requested that the following items be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately:

- Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.14 Contracts, Procurement and Supplier Diversity (Second Reading)
- Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 6.7 Real Estate Transactions and Management (Second Reading)

Trustee Cirillo made the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and Trustee Grabowska seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Coatie	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the amended consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of January 24, 2023
2. Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024 Internal Auditing Plan
3. Proposed Amendment to Policy 1C.2 Fraudulent or Other Dishonest Acts (Second Reading)
4. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.10 Student Housing (Second Reading)
5. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.8 Students Complaints and Grievances (Second Reading)
6. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees (Second Reading)
7. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.29 College and University Transcripts (Second Reading)
8. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.40 Recognition of Veteran Status (Second Reading)
9. Mission Statement Change: Metropolitan State University
10. Contracts Requiring Board Approval
  - a. Flight Training Program Facilities and Services, Rochester Community and Technical College
  - b. Alnwick Castle Lease Renewal, St Cloud State University
  - c. Clinical Mental Health Support, System Office

- d. Graduation Planning Software Contract Extension, System Office
- e. Leasing Supplier for Technology Services-Master Contract, System Office

Action was then taken on the two items removed from the consent agenda.

Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.14 Contracts, Procurement and Supplier Diversity (Second Reading)

Chair Moe addressed the first removed consent agenda item. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendment to Board Policy 5.14 Contracts, Procurements, and Supplier Diversity.*

Trustee Grabowska made the motion to approve and Trustee Huebsch seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Coatie	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Yes
Trustee Janezich	No
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the motion.

Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 6.7 Real Estate Transactions and Management (Second Reading)

Chair Moe addressed the second removed consent agenda item. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendment to Policy 6.7 Real Estate Transactions and Management.*

Trustee Grabowska made the motion to approve and Trustee Huebsch seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Coatie	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Yes
Trustee Janezich	No
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the motion.

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

#### Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair

Committee Chair Soule reported that the committee approved recommendation for one item. The Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Olson, appoints Kenneth Janz as President of Winona State University, with the anticipated effective date of March 20, 2024, 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 Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Coatie	Absent
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Yes

Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

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

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair
- Committee of the Whole, Roger Moe, Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Outreach and Engagement Committee, Dawn Erlandson, Chair
- Joint Audit/ Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, Alex Cirillo, Chair

### **Other Reports**

Trustee Erlandson shared that she recently facilitated a webinar with Dr. Maureen Dunne for her recently released book, *The Neurodiversity Edge: The Essential Guide to Embracing Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, and Other Neurological Differences for Any Organization*. A link to the recorded presentation and the slide deck will be sent to trustees following the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.