



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

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

Trustees present: George Soule, Chair; Dawn Erlandson, Vice Chair; Jay Cowles, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Jerry Janezich, Jana Johnson, Jacqueline Johnson, Roger Moe, Chris Richter, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Idman Ibrahim, Javier Morillo

Staff present: Scott Olson, Chancellor

The meeting materials and audio recording of the meeting are available on the [Board of Trustees website](#).

Chair Soule called the meeting to order at 10:11 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 or remote remarks were provided. In person remarks were provided by:

- LeadMN: Kailen Roeder, Public Relations Coordinator
- Students United: Sierra Roiger, State Chair
- International Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees: Nicole Emerson, Meet and Confer Chair
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Katie Jackson, St. Cloud State University

**Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson**

Chair Soule, Vice Chair Erlandson, and trustees-

First, I would like to mention that you have at you place some information on “Z Degrees”. I thought you would enjoy reading this update on how this program is helping our students.

As a result of many comments and suggestions, we have made some changes in the System Office regarding allocations and reclassifications. These changes and some new hires are helping to clear backlog and I hope this will improve overall workload issues.

There is a direct line between what our communities have been telling us and what you have heard about in the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget. I want to thank Vice Chancellor Maki and his team for their work on the biennial budget request. We listened to the 500 voices who attended the board's listening sessions. Their voices along with all the small group meetings Bill conducted with bargaining units and student associations are clearly reflected in the board's budget request. I have had a conversation with presidents post-election and can assure the board that campus advocacy work at campuses is in full swing. In a few weeks when Leadership Council convenes, we will also be bringing in all our campuses advocacy leads to share best practices and to identify new ways that we can leverage the power of the system this session. One of the tools is our legislative breakfasts now in their 3rd year. These are great opportunities for legislators to hear directly from our presidents and campus and community partners about the great work that is going on.

Regarding NextGen, we're ready to bring the Student Module forward for the board's consideration. We haven't lost focus on platform (Finance and HCM) and committed to correcting the issues. As the board heard last month, Sr. Vice Chancellor Green-Stephen and her team have been working on preparations for the implementation of NextGen Student for the past several months doing the necessary preparatory work so that we could hit the ground running. Negotiations with Workday have been ongoing – thanks to Satasha and the team including Nate Hallanger, Vice Chancellors Bailey, Davis, and Maki, General Counsel Goings, Assistant General Counsel Melitta Drechsler, and our partners at Dorsey and Whitney we are pleased to bring to the board a proposal for your consideration. It wasn't quite ready for consideration by the board today, but we appreciate the additional time so that we could complete our due diligence. As exciting as this is – I know that there continues to be frustrations and issues on the platform (Finance and HCM). I know some of these issues are getting in the way of the work that we depend on being able to do and that is frustrating. What is undeniable though are the people working on NextGen both at the campus and in the system office – and I know that I am joined in my deep appreciation of their efforts by all those in this room and colleagues throughout the system. We are committed to working thru this – and ask for those to continue to raise your concerns and successes.

Lastly, some Post-Election thoughts. After each election, we debrief and consider strategies and the work ahead. There are a lot of unknowns; however, what is known are Minnesota State's priorities. I am committed to the work that we must do for our

students and the state to be successful, and we will continue to do that work together – campus and system leadership – faculty and staff.

And with that, Chair, I turn it back to you.

### **Chair's Report**

Thank you, Chancellor. I would like to start by thanking Metro State for hosting this meeting while our space is being remodeled, and everyone who helped make this month's meeting go smoothly: President Ginny Arthur; President Executive Assistant Kimberly Her; Metro State IT and AV support specialist Andrew Johnson; and our very own System Office IT support specialist Darren Berger.

I also want to reflect on what a great meeting we had at Camp Ripley. We will convene a Special Board meeting this Friday at 8:30 a.m. that will focus on the Student Workday statement of work.

There is more to be said on the POST discussion/law enforcement education. We dipped our toe in and have a good understanding of what different constituencies are thinking. We will circle back to the topic, likely in January, to talk about it more.

I want to comment on the listening sessions. I was able to attend four of them and I thank the Board members who also attended. During these visits, the two things that stood out to me were the community support and partnerships that each of our colleges has. These conversations, along with the listening sessions hosted by the board with roughly 500 Minnesotans providing feedback, emphasize that the system is asking for what it needs and is reinforced in the biennial budget request.

Post-election thoughts: The federal elections will certainly create some bumps in the road for our system, but we will deal with them, overcome them, and accomplish our mission. Our mission is Equity 2030, implementation of NextGen, keeping a quality, affordable education for everyone in the state of Minnesota. We will get that done - business as usual, full steam ahead – we will get our work done. On a state level, our state voted 50/50, so we have strong support from both sides.

Thank you to trustees who will be attending upcoming commencement ceremonies at a few institutions. I was very impressed that they were all taken by the time I called to sign up!

## Consent Agenda

Chair Soule asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Grabowska motioned and Trustee Cowles seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Jana Johnson	Yes
Trustee Jacquie Johnson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of October 16, 2024**
- 2. Minutes of October 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole**
- 3. Review Audit Results and Approve Release of Audited Financial Statements and Federal Student Financial Aid Audit**
- 4. Contracts Requiring Board Approval:**
  - a. Beverage Pouring Rights Agreement, Minnesota State University, Mankato**
  - b. Stadium Dome Replacement Construction, St. Cloud State University**
  - c. Enterprise IT Agreement, System Office**
  - d. Project Management Resources Agreement for NextGen Student Implementation, System Office**
- 5. Surplus Property Designation, Anoka-Ramsey Community College**
- 6. Approval of Amended Minnesota-Wisconsin Public Higher Education Reciprocity Agreement**
- 7. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.15 Fundraising (Second Reading)**
- 8. FY2025 Capital Program Recommendation**

## Board Standing Committee Reports

Finance and Facilities Committee, Tim Huebsch, Chair

Committee Chair Huebsch reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Finance and Facilities Committee, approves the fiscal 2026-2027 biennial budget request in the amount of \$1,108,689,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,107,700,000 in fiscal year 2027 for a total of \$2,216,389,000. This includes \$285 million for Student Affordability and System Operations, \$100 million for Critical Infrastructure, \$40 million for Student Support, and \$40 million for Workforce-Focused Support. This request strengthens the state's commitment to inclusive excellence and ensuring our students receive an extraordinary, affordable, and accessible education. It further strengthens the economic and workforce viability of Minnesota's communities and the State.*

*The Board of Trustees has been granted the authority in state statute to govern and operate Minnesota State. The board, after full consultation with Minnesota State constituencies, will make final budget decisions, including setting tuition rates, at the conclusion of the legislative session.*

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

Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Jana Johnson	Yes
Trustee Jacquie Johnson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Richter	Yes
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted unanimously 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, Dawn Erlandson, Chair
- Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

**Trustee Reports**

Trustees Kathy Sheran and Jana Johnson shared highlights of the Normandale Foundation Breakfast they attended in October.

**Adjournment**

Chair Soule adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.