



**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2023**

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on March 22, 2023.

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

Trustees absent: Asani Ajogun, Victor Ayemobuwa, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa,

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#) starting on page 98. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

**Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra**

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees:

Today, we will celebrate the culmination of search for the next leader for Minnesota State University Moorhead. It is so wonderful to see so many of the MSUM university leaders here at today's meeting. For those listening back on campus – I look forward to celebrating with all of you on Friday during the official campus presentation. I wanted to share with you an update on the other Executive Searches that are well underway. Well, not all of them...

I shared with you late February that after a national search Ms. Shannon Bryant will be joining Minnesota State on May 1 as the new Executive Director for Workforce and Economic Development. Shannon's leadership and expertise are well aligned to the needs of our Workforce and Economic Development strategies. She brings a wealth of experience and a great understanding of what it takes to deepen and enhance this work. Shannon currently serves Tarrant County College (TCC) as the Executive Vice President for the Office of Corporate Solutions & Economic Development. Prior to joining TCC, she served as the Vice President of Workforce Development at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio, where she led one of the largest workforce development programs for a community college in the country. Prior to her time in higher education, Bryant spent 17 years working in the financial services industry helping individuals build

career paths and passing security licensing and professional development exams. I am beyond thrilled that Shannon will be joining our team to work alongside our campus and system leaders to support and expand the work of our colleges and universities as we augment our ability to provide Minnesota the talent and workforce it needs.

Later this week, we will announce the finalists for the next president for Riverland Community College. Later this month finalists will visit the campus communities and meet students, faculty, staff, and community leaders; in addition to meeting with myself, members of my cabinet, and trustees. It is my intention to bring forward my recommendation for the next President of Riverland College to the Board's April meeting.

After consultation with the Tribal College Board of Directors earlier this month, we launched a nationwide search for the next president for Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. We have secured the services of ACCT search and Cynthia Lopez to assist us with this search. Cindy previously worked with Achieving the Dream where she focused on supporting data capacity building and reform implementation with 33 tribal colleges and universities. My many thanks to Joe Mulford, President of Pine Technical and Community College and Dr. Robert Peacock, Director and CEO of the Fond du Lac Tribal College Board for agreeing to co-chair the search advisory committee. It is my intent to bring forward my recommendation to the Board in June. Hence a condensed timeline from our previous searches and this decision was not made lightly. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College went through very difficult time with the passing of the president Stephanie Hammitt. But after much consultation with the college community and the Tribal College Board of Directors, we all felt that this was in the best interest of the college so that it may continue the forward momentum of serving students and being a leader of Indigenous education and service for Minnesota State.

As we all know, we are in the decision-making time at the Legislature. I want to thank the campus leadership, faculty, students and community leaders for their tireless advocacy. We have been working on this biennial budget request since August, and we have two more months to go. Mister Chair, the request that was submitted by the Board of Trustees was prepared before the election or the announcement of the historic state budget surplus. The clarity and boldness of our request has been well received at the Legislature, and we are grateful for the Governor's additional supplemental budget recommendation for Minnesota State, and that public higher education has champions in Chair Pelowski, Chair Fateh, and Commissioner Olson.

Just yesterday, the Governor and the Speaker announced the targets for the upcoming biannual budget. The Higher Ed target was set up at \$650 million dollars. This is the largest target ever for Higher Ed. This target is direct result of the tireless advocacy on behalf of Higher Ed by Chairs Pelowski and Fateh. It is also demonstrative of the impact of unified and strong advocacy for our budget by our bargaining units and the student associations. I attended a rally at the capitol steps organized by our bargaining units and student associations which was ably led by Jenna Chernega, President of IFO. It was

evident the rally had the attention of key legislators who were there despite a very cold morning. I truly appreciated the strong partnership we have forged with our student associations and bargaining units. I want to also thank my presidential colleagues and other campus leaders for their efforts in engaging their area legislators around our request. We are not done yet and I am confident that Minnesota State's budget request is well positioned as we enter the last few weeks.

Chair Moe, I want to thank you for your guidance, as well as all the trustees for your work in preparing our budget request to reflect what we heard at the 12 listening sessions this fall. I am more hopeful than ever that at the end of the session we will have a budget that significantly moves the dial towards the state appropriation/tuition split of 2/3 state resources and 1/3 tuition. Chair Moe, your herculean efforts and inordinate amount of time you have spent on this work will yield results. It has been a delight to watch you work your magic up close.

Finally, we continue to press our case with a capital investment bill and will continue to do so until we get the bill over the finish line.

And with that Chair Moe, that concludes my remarks.

### **Chair's Report**

Thank you, Chancellor, for your remarks.

I concur with you that the biennial budget process is time consuming and critical for Minnesota State, our stakeholders and the citizens of Minnesota. I want to echo that this year's request was spot on with the needs of our students, our campuses and the communities we serve. In the coming weeks at the Legislature, we will continue to make our case for this much needed investment. I want to thank the students, faculty, staff and campus and system leadership for their advocacy so far this session.

Throughout the month of February, Minnesota State hosted six Regional Legislative Breakfasts at Saint Paul College. Each breakfast brought together legislators, business, community and K-12 partners, and campus leaders for meaningful discussion around Minnesota State's budget request. Along with Chancellor Malhotra and his team, I was able to attend all of these breakfasts. During these breakfasts - unfortunately one had to be cancelled due to weather - our message was shared with over 50 legislators. House Higher Education Chair Gene Pelowski attended half of the breakfasts, and his insight was extremely valuable. We also were joined by Leadership from the higher education committees, legislative leadership and Office of Higher Education Commissioner Dennis Olson. Approximately 200 business, community and K-12 partners attended the breakfasts, and provided valuable insight into their partnerships with Minnesota State colleges and universities, and how funding Minnesota State's budget request supports the work that they do.

I want to also recognize Trustees Cowles, Erlandson, Grabowska, Huebsch, and Tefer for attending many of these breakfasts. I also want to give a big thank you to President Peaslee for her hospitality. I know moving forward, the Minnesota State Government Relations team will be engaging in conversation with campuses on how we continue this work.

I'd like to provide the Board an update on a Senate Higher Education Committee hearing last week on our workforce and economic development request. Along with great presentations from Pine Technical and Community College, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, and Minneapolis College describing how these investments are crucial to their work. We have been reaching out to business, labor and industry leaders since last fall to talk with them about our budget request and the work we do in partnership. We had a dozen of these statewide leaders attend the hearing to testify in support of our request. These leaders represented business, labor, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and public safety, and they were crystal clear that Minnesota State is a strong partner.

I mention this because we need to continue this work moving forward – serving the workforce is essential to who we are as an organization. I also want campus leaders and stakeholders to know that this outreach will continue to be a Board priority.

Finally, I want to thank presidents and campus leaders who met with their local community partners and provided letters of support for our budget request from every corner of the state. These letters have been widely shared with legislators, and highlights these important partnerships.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. It was noted that Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.32 Faculty Qualifications has been added to the Consent Agenda since it was approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee after a suspension of rules that require two readings. Trustee Grabowska made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Trustee Huebsch seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Absent
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Absent

Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. **Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, November 15, 2022**
2. **Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, January 25, 2023**
3. **Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.8 Student Life**
4. **Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.32 Faculty Qualifications**
5. **Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
  - a. **Customized Training, Dakota County Technical College**
  - b. **Marketing/Advertising Contract, Winona State University**
  - c. **Library Renovation and Tutor and Learning Center Consolidation, Lake Superior College**
  - d. **Window and Siding Replacement, Williams Hillside Apartments, Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Fergus Falls Campus**
  - e. **Parking Lot #6 Pavement Rehabilitation, Normandale Community College**
  - f. **Library Building Renovation Construction Contract – Phase 1, Normandale Community College**
  - g. **Construction Phase 2 Locker Room Project, Riverland Community College**
  - h. **Campus-wide Door Hardware and Access, Rochester Community and Technical College**
  - i. **Heintz Center South Parking Lot Improvements, Rochester Community and Technical College**

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair

Committee Chair Soule reported that that committee approved recommendations for one appointment.

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 Tim Downs as President of Minnesota State University Moorhead, with the anticipated effective date of July 1, 2023, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair for 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	Absent
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Tim Downs was introduced to make remarks.

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

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, 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. Virtual remarks were provided by Kaileigh Weber, State Chair of Students United.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Lead MN: Karina Villeda, Vice President
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: Jennifer Erwin, President – Minnesota State Policy Committee
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE): Nicole Emerson, Minnesota State Meet & Confer Chair

### **Trustee Reports**

No additional remarks were made by trustees.

The next board meetings are scheduled for April 18-19, 2023.

**Adjournment**

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.