



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 18, 2024.

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: Micah Coatie, Idman Ibrahim, April Nishimura, Christopher Richter

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 3:00 p.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. Remote remarks were provided by John Runnigen of LeadMN. In person remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Marwah Asif, President
- Inter Faculty Organization: Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty: Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty: Kristy Modrow, President

Chancellor's Report, Scott Olson

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees-

We are meeting on Monday and Tuesday this week because tomorrow we have off for Juneteenth. This is a holiday of significant historical significance, and so it's right that Minnesota recognize it tomorrow.

Last week I had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. and meet with members of the U.S. House. I met with Congresswoman Fischbach, Congressman Finstad, Senator Klobuchar,

Congresswoman McCollum, and Congresswoman Omar. We also met with staff of other members of the delegation. Many thanks to Sarah Berns in Government Relations for her help in coordinating and navigating the D.C. traffic!

Next week all 26 colleges and 7 state universities will be celebrating Minnesota State Week. Many thanks to our Marketing and Communications team who have coordinated with all of our campuses on a statewide comprehensive marketing. There are numerous special campus visit events which are a great opportunity to learn about the benefits of our Minnesota State schools – the waiving of application fees is just one way for students to save on their educational experience: the North Star Promise Scholarship program, workforce development scholarships, and the tuition freeze are others.

My final message today is one of great thanks to outgoing Chair Moe. The summer solstice is this Thursday-the longest day of the year. But even in the darkest days, we have the North Star guiding us. I want to thank our North Star for the last two years, Chair Moe. His mentoring and guidance have been nothing short of phenomenal. I am so grateful that his wisdom will still be available to this Board for years to come-Thank you!

That concludes my report.

Chair's Report

Thank you, Chancellor.

My comments will come in two segments today-this portion, and then more comments towards the end of the meeting today.

I want to note and once again congratulate the GRIT program at Minnesota State University Moorhead who was presented with the inaugural Devinder Malhotra Equity Award earlier today during lunch. This award was established by the Board of Trustees to honor Devinder Malhotra who served as chancellor of Minnesota State from 2017 until his retirement last year.

I would like to turn now to a report on the work of the Chancellor Performance Review Committee this year. I'll begin by thanking the members of the Committee for the past year --- Vice Chair Soule, Trustee Cirillo, and Trustee Huebsch --- for their thoughtful work this year. Chancellor Olson provided the committee with a mid-year report on activities and progress on key initiatives at the beginning of this calendar year. The committee met earlier this month to discuss our evaluation of the Chancellor's performance and met yesterday with the chancellor to share this evaluation and offer suggestions and guidance. The full Board met in closed session this morning to discuss the Committee's conclusions. Committee members shared their evaluation and discussions with the full Board, invited trustee comments, and we heard strong support for Chancellor Olson's leadership.

In summary, The Board of Trustees finds that the Chancellor has met or exceeded our expectations, and we continue to have confidence in his leadership of Minnesota State.

Positive actions and qualities of particular note include: reaching out to the UM; clear and decisive action on St. Cloud State University; encourage the Cabinet to address the board in less “edu speak” language; has a serious focus on Equity 2030; strong voice for the systems workforce role without deemphasis of the arts and science; committed to developing Cabinet capacity and skills; a consensus leader that can make a decision; passion for higher education and our students.

We also shared with the Chancellor areas that warrant additional focus. These include: continued focus on Equity 2030 and NextGen “Go Live”; continue to develop relationships with legislators and administration; reach out to new UM President and continue emphasis on support for HEAPR; reframe the credit transfer issue; begin focus on succession planning; improve new president development plan; continue to develop cabinet skills to take responsibility for other goals; continue to “evangelize” the value of “systemness” and value of higher education; more involvement with national higher education organizations; sufficient orientation for new board members and presidents on Equity 2030.

Finally, we also encourage a 360 review and feedback for the chancellor sometime before the end of the Chancellor’s second year. This concludes my report of the Chancellor Performance Review Committee.

Presidential Emeriti Recognition

Chair Moe called on Chancellor Olson to present his recommendations for three presidents to be awarded Presidential Emeriti status. The Chancellor made the following comments:

Members of the board,

In accordance with Board Policy 4.8 today I am recommending that the Board of Trustees confer the title of President Emeritus on three of our former presidents, all of whom have distinguished records of academic service with Minnesota State.

The first president is Dr. Richard Rush, who joins us today in our meeting. Dr. Rush served Minnesota State University, Mankato as president from 1992-2001. Actually, when Richard began his tenure, the university was called Mankato State University. Richard’s vision to change the name to Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1998 has allowed the university to flourish and play a more visible role throughout Minnesota and the region. Richard was a student-focused president and a model of servant leadership while at Mankato. Also during his tenure, Richard embraced and supported embedding technology into the classroom, creating one of the first wireless campuses in the nation. The university’s campus was transformed while Richard was there including the building of the Taylor Center, where the current DII

national champion women's and men's basketball teams play, as well as many spaces and programs that continue to serve the university today.

Since leaving the university in 2001, Richard has continued to be involved with the campus making many trips back to Mankato for celebrations and events. He also continues to support various philanthropic areas at Minnesota State University, Mankato. For those reasons, it's my pleasure to recommend that the board confer the title of president emeritus on Richard Rush.

The second president for whom I am recommending emeritus status is Anne Blackhurst, and I want to acknowledge Anne who is here with us today. President Anne, as she was affectionately called on campus, served as president of Minnesota State University Moorhead from 2014 until her retirement one year ago. Anne led MSUM with vision and integrity, always placing student learning and growth at the forefront of her work. She also led a successful 60-million-dollar capital campaign during her tenure at Moorhead. Under Anne's leadership, Minnesota State University Moorhead's graduate enrollment more than doubled and the university's four-year graduation rates improved by 13 percent and six-year graduation rates by 10 percent, including a 12 percent increase in the graduation rate for students of color.

Anne prioritized and focused on programs that meet workforce needs, including introducing the first doctoral program in MSUM's history in Educational Leadership. Other key programs created under her leadership include MSUM's new Bachelor of Science in nursing, new master's degree programs in criminal justice, social work, and athletic training and undergraduate programs in supply chain management, entertainment industry technology, animation, and cybersecurity. Anne put Minnesota State University Moorhead on a sustainable path and left behind a lasting legacy and forward-looking momentum. I am honored to recommend that the board confer the title of president emeritus on Anne Blackhurst.

The final recommendation I am making today for emeritus status is for Adenuga Atewologun who I'm happy to say is in attendance at our meeting today. President Atewologun led Riverland Community College between 2013 and 2023, when he retired after more than 40 years of higher education experience. Under Nuga's leadership, Riverland experienced a growth in transfer pathway programs and enrollments. He also established specialty areas at each campus building, including positioning the Albert Lea Campus' focus through a 10.1 million dollar remodel and expansion of the Transportation, Trades, and Industrial Center. Under Nuga's stewardship, The Hormel Foundation created the Austin Assurance Scholarship that allows all Austin high school graduates an opportunity to attend Riverland without cost.

Nuga worked with community farm producers, The Hormel Foundation, and community leaders to create academic programming in Agriculture and Food Science Technology at Riverland during his presidency. He leaves behind a legacy through a public-private partnership bringing together the University of Minnesota, elected officials, and leaders from the private sector to create an integrated complex that will include world-class facilities known as the Future of Advanced Agricultural Research in Minnesota. Among the many awards and honors Nuga

received over his career, he was named the LeadMN College President of the Year for 2019-2020. It is indeed my pleasure to recommend that the board confer the title of president emeritus on Adenuga Atewologun.

The board is asked to consider the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of Chancellor Olson, in recognition that the following individuals have served as presidents with great distinction, the Board of Trustees hereby confers the honorary title of President Emeritus upon Anne Blackhurst, Minnesota State University Moorhead; Adenuga Atewologun, Riverland Community College; Richard Rush, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Trustee Grabowska motioned and Trustee Cowles 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	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Chair Moe invited the new presidents emeriti to make remarks.

Chancellor Emeritus Recognition

Chair Moe provided his recommendation for Chancellor Emeritus recognition and made the following comments:

There are countless areas of praise that could be cited for Chancellor Malhotra's service as chancellor. He provided remarkable vision for Minnesota State. Under his leadership, Minnesota State initiated Equity 2030, which aimed to eradicate educational disparities across race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and first-generation backgrounds at all Minnesota State colleges and universities by 2030. His style of consultative and servant leadership unified

everyone within the Minnesota State system – including bargaining units, college and university presidents, faculty, staff, and students – behind his vision for student success.

His communication skills, personal wit, warmth and respect for others, along with his deep knowledge of higher education and genuine passion for the mission of Minnesota State and the idea of systemness, were critical attributes during his tenure. Chancellor Malhotra always listened carefully to our stakeholders, employees and students. He took responsibility for results whether successes or disappointments and developed practical initiatives to drive continuous improvement. His work during his six-year tenure built a widely supported trajectory and momentum within Minnesota State towards even more successful student outcomes, adding strength to our system capabilities while supporting the presidents and opportunities of each of our colleges and universities.

His excellence was affirmed regionally and nationally by leadership roles in higher education through his service as acting chair of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact and chair of the National Association for System Heads. As even more evidence of this national impact, The National Association of Higher Education Systems recognized Devinder with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award this past April.

The Board of Trustees considers Chancellor Malhotra to have performed at an outstanding level during his time as chancellor, leading the state’s largest public higher education system. Under his leadership, Minnesota State navigated tremendous challenges and emerged stronger and more committed than ever to providing an opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities. His influence continues today and will for many years at Minnesota State. His service was nothing short of exemplary, and on behalf of the board, we are grateful for his service and thrilled to recognize him with emeritus status.

Chair Moe asked the board to consider the following motion:

In appreciation and recognition of his service with great distinction on behalf of the people of the State of Minnesota, the Board of Trustees hereby confers upon Devinder Malhotra the honorary title of Chancellor Emeritus of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Trustee Cirillo motioned and Trustee Janezich 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	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Chair Moe invited Chancellor Emeritus Malhotra to make remarks.

Consent Agenda

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Cirillo motioned 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	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of May 22, 2024
2. Revised FY2025 and Proposed FY2026 meeting calendar (Second Reading)
3. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.3 Student Involvement in Decision-Making (Second Reading)
4. Review and Approve Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Auditing Plan
5. Contracts Requiring Board Approval
 - a. Lease Agreement: Detroit Lakes Public School District, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Detroit Lakes Campus
 - b. Maverick Software Consulting Income Contract, Minnesota State University, Mankato

- c. Library Building Renovation Construction – Phase 1, Normandale Community College
6. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.19 Travel Management (Second Reading)
7. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.20 Special Expenses and Chancellor/Presidential Expense Allowances (Second Reading)
8. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.4 Undergraduate Admissions
9. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.36 Academic Programs

Board Standing Committee Reports

Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

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

- *Adopt the annual total all funds operating budget for fiscal year 2025 as shown in Table 5.*
- *Approve the proposed tuition structure recommendations and differential tuition rationale for fiscal year 2025 as detailed in Attachments 1A through 1H.*
- *Tuition rates are effective summer term or fall term 2024 at the discretion of the president. The chancellor or designee is authorized to approve any required technical adjustments and is requested to incorporate any approvals at the time fiscal year 2026 tuition recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees.*
- *Continue the policy of market-driven tuition for closed enrollment courses, customized training, and non-credit instruction, continuing education, and contract postsecondary enrollment option programs.*
- *Approve the Revenue Fund and related fiscal year 2025 fees for room and board, student union, wellness and recreation facilities, and parking ramps/surface lots as detailed in Attachments 2A through 2E, including any housing fees that the campuses may charge for occupancy outside the academic year.*
- *Authorize the chancellor or designee to enter into an agreement with the Learning Network of Minnesota to provide the funding appropriated to the organization in Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 41, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 4, in the amount of \$4,115,000.*

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	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Yes

Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
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:

- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Committee of the Whole, Roger Moe, Chair
- Joint Meeting of Academic and Student Affairs and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees, Cheryl Tefer and George Soule, Co-Chairs
- Joint Meeting of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, George Soule, Chair

Other Business

Election of Officers – Chair

Chair Moe called on Trustee Janezich to present the Nominating Committee’s Recommendations for Chair. The nominating committee sent its recommendation of George Soule as chair to the Board of Trustees on May 23, 2024. The Nominating Committee asks the Board of Trustees to consider the following motion:

The Board of Trustees approves the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to elect George Soule as chair of the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2024.

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

Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Chair Moe invited Trustee Soule to make remarks.

Election of Officers – Vice Chair

Chair Moe called on Trustee Janezich to present the Nominating Committee's Recommendations for Vice Chair. The nominating committee sent its recommendation of Dawn Erlandson as vice chair to the Board of Trustees on May 23, 2024. The Nominating Committee asks the Board of Trustees to consider the following motion:

The Board of Trustees approves the Nominating Committee's recommendation to elect Dawn Erlandson as vice chair of the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2024.

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

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Chair Moe invited Trustee Erlandson to make remarks.

Other Reports

Chair Moe gave his reflections on his past two years as Board Chair. Trustees Erlandson and Sheran also provided comments.

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.