



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 17, 2023.

Trustees present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Victor Ayemobuwa, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Asani Ajogun, Dawn Erlandson, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#) starting on page 171. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees:

Chair Moe, I would like to start my remarks extending my appreciation to Chair Pelowski, Chair Fateh, House and Senate higher education committee members, and Governor Walz for prioritizing higher education and recognized the need to invest in our colleges and universities. Our biennial budget process began 10 months ago with listening sessions held around the state, along with a great deal of consultation with all internal stakeholders who helped develop and advocate for a strong budget request. It was because of the robust engagement at all levels that we were able to present a budget that enjoyed broad support. Our presidents worked with including college and university business partners and with other community leaders, many of them participated in the legislative breakfasts to mount a strong advocacy.

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 and for the subsequent meetings, Chair Moe, you led with state level leaders. We heard many times during those listening sessions that our focus needs to be on serving students, the workforce, and the communities throughout our great state. Personally, to be a part of this effort, having the honor to testify on behalf of Minnesota State, and then seeing the very strong budget outcome that Vice Chancellor Maki

highlighted yesterday, is truly one of the efforts that I will look back on with great deal of pride and gratification. I want to thank our students, faculty, staff, and campus and system leadership for their great work. I believe that our unified message was critical when presenting our budget and throughout the session.

With this investment, we also have the responsibility to deliver for the taxpayers of Minnesota, as well as meeting the expectations that legislative leaders have defined. I have no doubt that Minnesota State will meet those expectations and will have continued success in future sessions under Chancellor-designate Olson's leadership. While the higher education bill is complete, we continue to remain engaged in the capital investment discussions and remain hopeful for a positive outcome and look forward to adding some "substance" to the slides that Associate Vice Chancellor Yolitz displayed yesterday.

Now a few words on the Chancellor transition. Exactly eight days ago, this board selected Scott Olson as the next chancellor of Minnesota State and I could not be more pleased for Scott and for our colleges and universities. In Scott's leadership, our faculty and staff will have a partner and collaborator; our students will have an advocate; and the state of Minnesota will have an individual who truly believes in the power of education. During the weeks ahead (which is actually 75 days but who's counting), know that I am committed to working with Scott on his transition to the 5th floor. Trustees, I shared with you earlier this morning a framework for the transition work developed in consultation with Chancellor-designate Olson and feedback from Chair Moe.

In closing, as many of the trustees and members of my cabinet have done, I had the good fortune to attend three commencements last week. They included Minnesota North College, Vermilion; North Hennepin Community College; and Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Worthington campus. My thanks to Presidents Raich, Garcia, and Gaalswyk for their hospitality and to the faculty and staff for allowing me to share in the celebrations. The graduates at those three ceremonies, joined the 36,000 graduates who earned their certificate, diploma, or degree from Minnesota State this year. Each one of our graduates is one of 300,000 students across this state, from all walks of life, who have benefited this year from public education on the campuses of our Minnesota State colleges and universities. It is my sincere hope that our system of public higher education has helped to instill in our graduates a public purpose that will enable them to look beyond their own personal interests and strengthen their commitment to make the world and society we live in better.

Our nation and our society is seeking answers to our current challenges that we face on a daily basis. In each and every instance—the education provided to our students prepares them to lead the transformation that will enhance common good and assist society to find solutions to the challenges of the day. Thank you to the faculty, staff, and campus leaders who helped each and every one of our graduates on their path. And so, on behalf of all of us at Minnesota State, congratulations to the class of 2023.

And with that Chair Moe, that concludes my remarks.

Chair's Report

Thank you, Chancellor, for your remarks.

The Legislature's strong support for Minnesota State is a testament to your distinguished career. The care that you give to working with stakeholders and community leaders is a precedent that will continue. I also want to thank students, faculty, staff and campus and system leadership for their advocacy during this legislative session. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank Chair Pelowski, Chair Fateh and Governor Walz for their strong support. I also want to thank House Speaker Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Dzierdzic for strong budget targets that made this good work happen. I have a soft spot for caucus leaders!

There are potentially five days left in the legislative session, and with the debate surrounding the capital investment bill, we have a great deal at stake. Along with the Chancellor, we will continue to make our case for a much-needed capital investment bill, and I remain optimistic that there will be a strong bill at the end of session. I am well aware of the frustration that happens when we do not receive infrastructure funding, but no matter the outcome, we must continue to make the case for these much-needed investments and advocate for protecting these valuable assets.

With the 2024 legislative session being a bonding year, I look forward to joining Chancellor Designate Olson to partner with the new University of Minnesota President to make a strong case for capital investment throughout public higher education in Minnesota.

One of the highlights of trustee service is the opportunity to attend commencement ceremonies at our colleges and universities. We trustees have been thrilled to attend commencements and join students as they celebrate their educational achievements. Trustees, the Chancellor, and some Chancellor's Cabinet members, traveled around the state to attend over 30 commencement ceremonies. I would like to extend thanks to campuses for the warm welcomes we received ... we were delighted to once again share in these joyous celebrations.

Posthumous Presidential Emerita Recognition

The Chancellor spoke again making the following remarks:

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, trustees-

In November of this past year, the Minnesota State community lost one of their own – President Stephanie Hammitt after a brief but hard-fought battle with cancer. Stephanie served Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College from 1990 until her passing in 2022 in

a number of leadership roles. She served the college initially as director of fiscal operations and subsequently the as Vice president of finance and administration. In 2018, she was named to serve as interim president and in 2019 was named the fourth president of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Stephanie was a quiet soul but there was no doubt of her deep conviction and passionate commitment for her students, her community, and her culture and heritage. She was engaged and determined to provide the students an exceptional educational experience. She truly believed in the Fond du Lac community and that together the best days of the college lay ahead. Stephanie was steadfast in her focus to ensure the college thrived both programmatically and financially, and also provided paths to productive careers and upward mobility. She took seriously the responsibility of being a leader in the system and the state regarding enhancing access to post-secondary education for students from native communities and incorporating native issues in our programmatic structures and curricular paradigms.

Stephanie was an avid football fan and a season ticket holder. Every fall, we knew that Stephanie's Sunday schedule was centered around her passion for the Minnesota Vikings. She was a true believer for many, many, many years. The only thing that could top her passion that someday it would "be the Vikings year" was her belief in each and every student that walked the halls of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College deserved the most robust support to achieve their full potential and academic success. She understood the power of education – the power of opportunity and the power of community. That power is what binds the members of the college together and continues to help them persevere into the future.

Therefore, in accordance with Board Policy 4.8, I am recommending that the Board of Trustees confer the title of President Emeritus posthumously on Stephanie Hammitt, for her distinguished record of service as a leader in Minnesota State.

After the Chancellor's remarks, Chair Moe asked the committee members to consider the following recommended motion:

Upon the recommendation of Chancellor Devinder Malhotra, and in recognition that she served with great distinction, the Board of Trustees hereby confers the honorary title of Posthumous Presidential Emerita upon Stephanie Hammitt, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Recommendation did 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	Absent
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. President Hammitt's husband, Brian, was introduced to make remarks and accept the recognition.

Consent Agenda

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Huebsch made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Trustee Grabowska 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	Absent
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
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, April 19, 2023**
- 2. Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
 - a. Helicopter Aviation Training, Lake Superior College**
 - b. Advance Manufacturing Lab Training Equipment Contract, St. Cloud Technical & Community College**

- 3. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 7.4 Financial Reporting (Second Reading)**
- 4. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 5.11 Tuition and Fees (Second Reading)**
- 5. Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.24 College or University Type and Mission, System Mission (Second Reading)**
- 6. Workday Change Order Approval**
- 7. Revised NextGen Project Timeline/Budget Approval**
- 8. Mission Statement Change: Lake Superior College**

Board Standing Committee Reports

The board received reports from meetings of the following committees:

- Joint Meeting of Academic and Student Affairs and Audit Committees, Cheryl Tefer and Alex Cirillo, Chairs
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair
- Joint Meeting of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Finance and Facilities Committees, George Soule and Jay Cowles, Chairs
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, 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 MSUAAF.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Lead MN: Karina Villeda, Vice President
- Students United: Kailiegh Weber, President-Outgoing; Axel Kylander, President-Incoming
- Inter Faculty Organization (IFO): Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF): Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty (MSUAAF): Kristy Modrow, President

Trustee Reports

No trustee reports were heard.

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.