



**Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2023**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on January 4, 2023.

Committee members present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Jay Cowles, Treasurer; Dawn Erlandson, April Nishimura, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Committee members absent: None

Other board members present: Jim Grabowska

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor; Kari Campbell, Executive Director

The meeting materials are available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 7:58 a.m.

Chancellor's Updates

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, and trustees-

Happy New Year to everyone! 2022 was a tough year, but it is behind us, and we approach 2023 with a renewed sense of hope optimism and good things to come. Towards the end of last fall, we had developed a very bold and aggressive agenda for the legislative request. Now we are in the process of developing an aggressive advocacy plan around that aggressive agenda. Melissa Fahning will give an update on this shortly, but I do take a lot of comfort in the fact that our priorities are in aligned with those of our student and faculty groups, so we are united on this front. I know Chair Moe has been making the rounds meetings union, state and regional leadership and informing them of the importance of being funded in this effort.

Tomorrow, Chair Moe and I will meet with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to and their staff to bring our message with regard to our legislative request. We are also meeting with the higher education committee leaders.

Besides that, I also wanted to update you on some of the executive searches we have going on. The presidential searches for both MSU-Moorhead and Riverland College are both

progressing in an appropriate manner and as we move forward, we will continue to update you.

In December, we had announced that we had selected our inaugural Executive Director for our New Center for Data Access and Analytics. I am proud to inform you that today we have selected Dr. Priyank Shah. The expression eludes me now, but something to the effect of the fruit of the tree does not fall far from it. Dr. Shah is well known to us, as he was our Assoc. VC in office of Equity and Inclusion. He has been instrumental in leading and advancing system wide efforts in collaboration with system leaders faculty and staff. Most notable are his contributions to Equity 2030, launching the equity scorecard, and the system wide campus climate initiative. Welcome, Dr. Shah. With your indulgence, Chair Moe, I will ask him to introduce himself to the executive committee.

Another Cabinet position that we are nearing completion on is the Executive Director of Workforce and Economic Development. Larry Lundblad has been serving in this role currently. Larry came out of his second or third retirement...I lost count...to assist in this effort. The search advisory committee will interview semi-finalists, determine finalists and expect to make an announcement towards the end of January.

Lastly, you may recall Minnesota State was struck with tragedy when President Stephanie Hammitt of Fond du Lac passed away. I will be visiting Fond du Lac campus on January 19th and meet with the tribal board of education, as well as internal stakeholders, to identify the process and approach to identify the next leader of the college. In the interim, Anita Hanson is serving as the acting president. I must say, she walked into a very difficult situation, but she has done a remarkable - phenomenal – job in keeping the campus community together, their spirits up, and focusing them on a forward momentum, as Stephanie would have liked us to do. As the search progresses, I will keep both Chair Moe and Vice Chair Soule apprised of the situation.

With that Chair Moe concludes my remarks.

Chair's Update

As the Chancellor indicated, the major effort now will be with the legislature. We have tried to get ready for all of that. I have had the good fortune to travel around the area here with Bernie for a couple of days. We met with about fifteen or twenty different organizations that ranged from labor unions, chamber of commerce, business partnerships, and various trade organizations. The purpose was to tell them about our budget, how we went about preparing it, and why we think what we spelled out as priorities of the system.

I can say, uniformly, the reaction was twofold. Number one, they really appreciated an opportunity to sit down with us and to talk about the budget. This was a new experience for some of them, and they really appreciated that, so that's positive. Secondly - without exception - everyone has a workforce labor/employee concern. It didn't make any difference

what trade group or what organization it was. Because employees are so scarce, all groups said that they will be there to support our budget. So, it was worthwhile, and I hope will help pay some dividends for us as we move through the legislative session.

Melissa will talk more about this as well, but yesterday I went over to the State Capitol and I was invited to a celebration hosted by the Native American community for Native American women who were elected to the legislature. It was really a wonderful event with great songs and dance. This also highlights something that's really significant: This is the most diverse legislature ever sitting at the capitol and it highlights our efforts here at Minnesota State and hopefully we'll have great, great partners in our efforts.

I also attended the advocates luncheon we had at St. Paul College. And there again, all of the campuses were represented and eager to advance the legislative agenda that we have. If anybody has any kind of relationship whatsoever, I would hope that all of you feel like you can you can lobby just like anybody else.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of November 2, 2022

Chair Moe asked if there are any changes or amendments to the minutes then asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Tefer made the motion and Trustee Nishimura provided a second. A roll call vote was conducted, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: FY2023 Board Operating Budget Update

Chair Moe invited Executive Director Campbell to provide an overview of FY2023 Board Operating Budget Update. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 6.

This being an informational item, there was no vote taken.

Agenda Item 5: Board Assessment Proposal

Chair Moe again invited Executive Director Campbell to provide an overview of the Board Assessment Proposal. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 7.

This being an informational item, there was no vote taken.

Agenda Item 6: Grassroots Advocacy Update

Chair Moe invited Melissa Fahning, Director of Communications for Government Relations, to provide an overview of legislative advocacy efforts in support of Minnesota State's biennial and capital budget requests during the 2023 Legislative Session. The meeting materials for this item begin on page 9.

This being an informational item, there was no vote taken.

Adjournment

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.