



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on October 16, 2024.

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

Trustees absent: Idman Ibrahim, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, Chris Richter

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 2:06 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 Grace Horn, Treasurer of LeadMN. In person remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Sierra Roiger, State Chair
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: Jennifer Erwin, President, Minnesota State Policy Committee
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees: Nicole Emerson, Meet and Confer Chair
- 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 Soule, Vice Chair Erlandson, and trustees-

I would like to start off by thanking Central Lakes College for hosting. President Charlier – your team has been nothing short of amazing and we can understand why CLC is a “Great Place to Work”.

I wanted to recognize all the soldiers we met yesterday at Camp Ripley and their role in making the experience a memory that will last forever. Thank you to the Minnesota State team who made this event happen: Bernie Omann, Noelle Hawton, Christy Kaelin, Kari Campbell, Amanda Muenzner, Melissa Fahning, and Sarah Berns. Special thank you to Gina Sobania for her work not only for yesterday, but the work you do to support the partnership with the MN National Guard every day.

I want to update you on several executive searches underway. First, I had the opportunity to meet last week with South Central College students, faculty, staff and community partners at both the Faribault and North Mankato campuses along with search chair, President Michael Berndt and our search consultants from Academic Search.

The next search is at Northland Community and Technical College. I will be up there next week at both East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls campuses to conduct listening sessions along with search chair, President Joy Bodin.

The third search is for Lake Superior College. I will visit Duluth in a few weeks along with search chair, President Sharon Pierce.

Lastly, we will begin the search for the permanent Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion in the coming months. We need to identify a search firm that will help us recruit the best talent pool and launch listening sessions. This position impacts all of us – students, faculty, staff, and our partnerships with community. It is important to hear from all as we envision the skills and traits necessary to advance our work.

My final update is about NextGen. As we discussed earlier today, the implementation of Workday for HCM and Finance has not been without its issues. I am most proud of the individuals at our campuses and across the system who are working on this each and every day.

One of the issues that affected our faculty the most this fall was the processing delays which resulted in some faculty not receiving timely or accurate paychecks. It is foundational to our work that our employees are paid fairly, accurately, and on time. I know failing to do so undermines trust and very understandably may leave some of our faculty feeling undervalued. This is why I sent a letter to every faculty member affected by a payroll delay this fall.

I am committed, along with our HR partners across the state, to address the flaws in our current business processes and system that have contributed to these persistent delays.

Chair's Report

I would also like to thank all those whose efforts made this month's meetings and activities possible: Central Lakes College team-President Hara Charlier, Jody Longbella, the CLC Technology Services team – Andrea Carlson, Scott Streed, JJ Larson, Terri Bussman with CLC Dining Services, System office IT support – Darren Berger and Ross Berndt. A special thanks to Gina Sobania – our experiences yesterday at Camp Ripley would not have been possible without her support, guidance and strong relationships with the Minnesota National Guard. Finally, thanks to the Minnesota National Guard – we are grateful for their hospitality during our visit and for their continued support of our partnership. Thanks to Major General Manke, Brigadier General Schaefer, Colonel Suarez, Lieutenant Colonel Hall, Lieutenant Colonel Sanganoo, Captain Hunt, Mr. Krouth.

Consent Agenda

Chair Soule asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Grabowska motioned and Trustee Moe 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	Absent
Trustee Jana Johnson	Yes
Trustee Jacquie Johnson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	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 June 18, 2024**
- 2. Minutes of July 11, 2024 Special Meeting**

Board Standing Committee Reports

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

Committee Chair Cowles reported that the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of Chancellor Olson, appoints “Eda” Rassheedah Watts as Interim Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion effective October 28, 2024, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of 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 Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Ibrahim	Absent
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Jana Johnson	Yes
Trustee Jacquie Johnson	Yes
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Richter	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted unanimously to approve the recommended motion. Chair Soule invited Dr. Watts to provide remarks virtually.

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

- Committee of the Whole, George Soule, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Finance and Facilities Committee, Tim Huebsch, Chair
- Outreach and Engagement Committee, Kathy Sheran, Chair

Adjournment

Chair Soule adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.