

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2009**

Executive Committee Members Present: David Olson, Chair, Duane Benson, Ruth Grendahl, Thomas Renier, Christine Rice and Scott Thiss

Executive Committee Members Absent: David Paskach

Other Members Present: Jacob Englund, Dan McElroy and James Van Houten

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Executive Committee met at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street E., 4th Floor, Board Room, Saint Paul, on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at 2:40 p.m. Chair David Olson convened the meeting and announced that a quorum was present.

(1) Minutes of September 9, 2009, Meeting

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on September 9, 2009, were accepted as written.

(2) FY 2010 First Quarter Board Operating Budget

The report on the FY 2010 First Quarter Board Operating Budget was distributed. Trustee Scott Thiss, Treasurer, reported that the Board's Operating Budget is \$215,500. As of September 30, 2009, \$27,067, or thirteen percent, had been disbursed, and \$126,748 had been encumbered. The balance was \$58,685. For the same period last year, sixteen percent of the budget of \$240,000 had been disbursed.

(3) Retreat Follow-Up

The committee discussed the Board's retreat that was at Rochester Community and Technical College on October 20 and 21. Vice Chair Ruth Grendahl commented that there was some frustration because of the lack of a clear outcome. Trustee James Van Houten commented that he believes that the system is on the verge of greatness, particularly with some of the ideas that were discussed, such as offering tuition at a lower price, the bridge from K-12 to higher education, and online learning as an answer to addressing needs in rural Minnesota. He added that if we put our resources behind these things, we are on the verge of greatness.

Chair Olson noted that the conversation was fine, but it was not an easy meeting to facilitate. Overall, members agreed it important to keep the issues that were identified on the forefront. Members also wanted the "System's Positioning Statements" to be included in future discussions.

Trustee Christine Rice distributed a proposal for Trustees to host "listening sessions." She explained that it would be helpful for the Board of Trustees to hear from stakeholders. Chair Olson has approved the feasibility of this. Trustees were struggling with their role at the retreat. The listening sessions would be a step toward defining ourselves. The Board would hear from students, townspeople and others. Trustee Duane Benson added that the stakeholders would be asked to respond to questions that would be sent in

