

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIVERSITY AND MULTICUTURALISM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2009**

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Present: Trustees Duane Benson, Chair; Clarence Hightower, Vice Chair; Christopher Frederick, Tom Renier, Louise Sundin

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Absent: Terri Thomas

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Cheryl Dickson, Scott Thiss, James Van Houten.

Leadership Council Members Present: Dr. Whitney Harris, Executive Director; President Edna Szymanski.

A meeting of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee was held on November 17, 2009, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor Board Room, 30 7th Street East, St. Paul. Chair Benson called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Minutes of the July 21, 2009 Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee

The minutes of the July 21, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

2.

3) Operations

The Male Access and Success Study Group has concluded its work. The final report is being edited. The plan is to bring it to Leadership Council Diversity Committee and then to the January Diversity and Multiculturalism Board Committee. A primary outcome will be the development and implementation of best practices that enhance higher education access and opportunity for males.

3. Enrollment and Retention Data for Underrepresented Students

Dr. Harris invited Dr. Craig Schoenecker, System Director for Research, to explain the trends in enrollment and retention of underrepresented students. Dr. Schoenecker said that there has been a steady increase in underrepresented students in both the colleges and universities. There was a significant increase in underrepresented students (Pell eligible, students of color, and first generation students) this fall as compared to a year ago. Perhaps because of the economic recession, there is an increased percentage of new male students and students twenty-five years and older.

There was also a substantial increase this year in the fall-to-fall retention rate of underrepresented full-time students. In response to a question, Dr. Schoenecker said that the goal is to reduce the gap between the retention rate of underrepresented students compared to that of other groups.

Trustee Hightower requested that the retention information be drilled down by underrepresented category. In answer to a question from Trustee Frederick, Dr. Schoenecker said the information about graduation and transfer rates is available on a drill down tool, accessible from the website as part of the accountability dashboard. Trustee Hightower also asked if there was a way to track whether the infusion of cash is making a difference or whether the change is from other factors. Dr. Harris said the answer is yes and no: There is no way to know the precise difference made by the programs, but the results for students participating in a given program can be compared to those of nonparticipants. Dr. Schoenecker said that this year there will be a

