
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Present: Chair Christine Rice;
Trustees Duane Benson, Tom Renier, Louise Sundin and James Van Houten.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members Absent: Christopher Frederick and David Paskach.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Scott Thiss, Jacob Englund, Dan McElroy, Alfredo Oliveira, Michael Vekich and Cheryl Dickson.

Leadership Council Committee Co-Chairs Present: Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson and President Sue Hammersmith.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on September 14, 2010, at Wells Fargo Place, 4th Floor, Board Room, 30 East 7th Street in St. Paul. Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 1:23 pm.

1. Minutes of July 20, 2010

The minutes from the July 20, 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

2. Minutes of August 19, 2010

The minutes from the August 19, 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Update – Interim Vice Chancellor Olson

- Interim Vice Chancellor Olson gave an overview of the budget reductions in the Academic and Student Affairs Division. He said cuts were made strategically.

Four areas in the division are impacted by the reductions, with a total loss of 11 positions. Combined with 11 additional positions cut the past two years, the division will have a 32 percent overall reduction in state-funded positions.

The Center for Teaching and Learning and the Credentialing unit are being restructured, which will result in a reduction of several personnel. One position is being cut in Research and Planning and the EMS functions of the Fire Center will be transferred to the Finance Division, he said.

Trustee Van Houten asked if the Fire Center Library would be moving to a campus. He said it is an outstanding resource and is one of the few places where safety officials in the Midwest can do research.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said there are ongoing conversations about moving the library, as well as some of the Fire Center's educational functions, to a campus, but no decisions have been made yet.

- A new online service to help veterans and members of the armed forces identify whether their military training can count for college credits in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has recently been launched, Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said. The Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS) is the first of its kind in the nation.

The system was developed with the assistance of the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Funding for developing the transfer system came from a federal grant supported by members of Minnesota's congressional delegation.

- There is a new Career OneStop website, done in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Economic Development, which helps people match current occupational skills and experiences to new careers and suggests training needed for these career changes. The website is called mySkills myFuture.
- Trustee Benson said the Board of Trustees' retreat in October will focus on what the Board can do that will have the greatest impact on the students and state in the future, long after current members have left the Board.

4. Mission Approvals:

Board Policy 3.24 requires institutions to have their missions approved by the Board of Trustees at least once every five years.

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Discussion:

Vice President Murtaugh said the vision, mission and purposes presented reaffirm the institutional mission approved by the Board of Trustees in 1998. The college continues to be committed to technical education excellence and there are no changes in the mission statement, she said.

When asked about enrollment trends at the college, Vice President

College vision: Northland Community and Technical College will be widely recognized as a progressive leader in community and technical college education, responsive to the needs of our learners through the use of partnerships, innovation and technology.

College mission: Northland Community and Technical College is dedicated to creating a quality learning environment for all learners through partnerships with students, communities, businesses, and other educational institutions.

Discussion:

President Temte said the college had a very robust strategic planning process in fiscal year 2008-2009 which involved 350 participants. At that time participants determined that they were satisfied with the existing mission and vision statements, which were approved by the Board in 1999.

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The merger allows technical colleges to be treated equally in the higher education community

The college's growth took off when the effort was made to align the college strategic goals with the strategic goals of the system, President Johnson said. There was a 21 percent growth in enrollment last year and an additional 4 percent this year.

Trustee Van Houten noted males make up only 37 percent of the student population at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical and asked why the figure is so low. President Johnson said this is a trend throughout the higher education community. Part of the reason may be that the college has strong allied health education programs which tend to attract more females than males.

A motion was made by Trustee Benson and seconded by Trustee Renier that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request by Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes and array of awards as listed in the executive summary. The motion carried, with one abstention from Trustee Van Houten, who said he would like the issue of technical college mission changes to be discussed again

moving responsibility for remedial education to two-year colleges; and studying a 12-month academic calendar and a three-year baccalaureate program.

Chair Rice said the selection of these two goals does not mean that the committee can't discuss or act on other goal suggestions, such as making college readiness expectations clear to prospective students.

Trustee Englund asked how much remedial education currently is done at universities.

President Hammersmith said Metropolitan State University, for example, does not offer remedial courses. Students go to two-year colleges for developmental coursework.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said staff could obtain information on the status of remedial education at universities and report back to the Board.

Trustee McElroy asked if students needing developmental coursework could obtain it through adult basic education programs. This may be a less-expensive way for students to receive this type of coursework, he said.

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During FY 2010, 327 degree programs reduced credit lengths to 60/120 and now 87 percent of the degree programs are now in compliance with Minnesota statute and Chancellor's policy and procedure

Six waiver applications pertaining to engineering programs were submitted and approved. During 2011 and 2012, group waivers applications are expected in areas such as law enforcement, health care and teaching programs.

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson said students in programs, such as engineering, need to have additional coursework to meet national accreditation standards. Extra coursework may be necessary in some areas of teacher education as well.

Chair Rice asked why some state universities offer associate degrees.

Associate Vice Chancellor Manuel López said historically no community colleges were located in the same community as a state university. This caused some universities to begin to offer associate of arts and associate of applied science degrees to serve more students in each university's service area. Few associate degrees are awarded by universities today, he said.

Trustees discussed if this is something that should be promoted. Trustee McElroy pointed out students possibly could earn an associate's degree, even if they leave the university before earning enough credits for a baccalaureate degree. This would help improve institutional graduation rates, he said. People with degrees tend to be more employable and earn higher wages, he added.

President Hammersmith said universities offering associate degrees are more common in states that do not have a strong community college network. Associate degrees would often be aimed at students interested in transferring to a specialty program, such as veterinary medicine, at another school. These degrees also could be appealing to students who not only want a two-year degree, but alone, buto on-2(e)0(e)-6(a)4(r)3(