

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RETREAT

OCTOBER 19-20, 2010

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD

COMSTOCK MEMORIAL UNION

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

Trustees Present:

Legacy Foundations

Trustee Benson asked the Trustees to consider the state of higher education, not only in Minnesota but across the nation. In small group discussions, the Trustees, staff and audience were assigned to write a speech on "The State of Higher Education," and "Who Speaks for Higher Education." The speech should include at least two positives and two negatives, and a minority report, should there be one.

Summary of Speeches

Group One

Access is something America has that no other country has. American has access to scholars and researchers and we provide extensive research. Who speaks for higher education in Minnesota? The speakers are not necessarily all of the higher education bodies represented. The president of the University of Minnesota is seen as the spokesperson. There is not one voice speaking for higher education. We can speak louder. We can plug in and get great successes.

In terms of family support and financing of past generations there is confusion about the real cost of higher education, part-time and full time study and how long it takes to earn the credits. What is the total cost? Failure to connect and understand the students' needs.

A minority report. The public no longer understands the value of higher education, and if we can help them understand it we will all be better off.

Group Two

The state of higher education is the back bone and future of the country and the world.

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effective in the future. Also, the lack of college preparedness is a challenge as we take all students and struggle to get them through. We have not responded to the challenges, rather we have hunkered down. The reality is that higher education's voice/leadership is in the bunker right now. Get the voice of leadership out of the bunker.

Group Four

The retreat has this wonderful sports theme. If you win in sports everybody recognizes it, but

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Review of Day One

Chair Thiss reconvened the retreat at 8:10 AM. He reviewed the Board's values and culture statements. They were: stewardship, forward-looking, visionary, innovative, creative, transparent, accountable, integrity, respect, diversity and access.

Documents prepared by Interim Vice Chancellor Olson, based on Day One's discussions, were distributed. (They are attached to the minutes):

- The State of Higher Education;
- The State of Higher Education and the Strategic Direction of the Board;
- The State of higher Education and the Values of the Board; and
- The Priority Ranking of Retreat Topics.

Trustee Benson referred to the positive and negative themes regarding the state of higher education that the Board had identified the day before. See pages 4 and 5.

Our Values in Action

Interim Vice Chancellor Olson summarized the major positive themes and connected them with the Board's values and the Board's responses to a survey on topics for the retreat. The topics that generated the most interest were:

- Statewide higher education planning/collaboration
- Cost control, reorganization and right-sizing
- Higher education finance/funding
- Real/dramatic change
- Advocacy for the system
- P-20 issues
- Resources for Results

Trustee Christine Rice recited the guidelines for Big Hairy Audacious Goals that were shared previously with the Trustees when the committees were identifying their goals:

- Goal must be in sync with the system's current strategic plan;
- Goal should be innovative;
- Goal must be achievable in a relatively short time period of between one and five years;
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Interim Vice Chancellor Olson challenged the Trustees to talk about "what would break the bat, open the wound, but forever change higher education." The big winners would be the students and the tax payers of Minnesota. The idea of bringing together higher education rests within the system given its moral authority, number of students, and its geographical reach.

Trustee Benson suggested that the Board could host a conversation between the system, the University of Minnesota, and the private college council. It could be a summit, retreat or a workshop to talk about the common ground and problems in

Trustee Krinkie commented that a measurable goal would be to influence the legislature for funding equity for K-12 and higher education. Higher education enrollments have grown while K-12 has declined. Minnesota cannot have a great higher education system if it does not have a great K-12 system.

Trustee Dickson mentioned a conference she recently attended sponsored by the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties. One student said that we are setting kids up for failure with kids dropping out of high school. Another issue is children having children and this is a societal problem. She said she would support legislation to raise the graduation rate. Trustee Benson remarked that he hoped that the notion of a common agenda for higher education and the barriers and solutions that were discussed could be done without legislation.

Trustee Benson referred to other issues that could have been taken up in the small group discussions. Issues such as cost containment, shared services and pricing. What should they look like? How about transparent? Does anyone understand them? What is the biggest barrier to having a better cost containment system? An appropriate allocation system? Trustee McElroy cited the higher cost of technical classes; another is historic tension between the system and institutions, urban and rural areas given the population decline in rural counties.

Trustee Sundin commented that the MN AFL-CIO passed a resolution to change the funding for technical courses, so they may be a partner with a common goal. Also, expand P-16 to include more than system heads such as board members and others. Another idea would be to eliminate or restructure the Higher Education Advisory Council of the Office of Higher Education with the P-16 or P-20 Council

Trustee Hightower offered a resolution that the Board Chair is authorized and encouraged to reach out to other educational institutions and policy makers to foster discussion regarding the improvement of education in Minnesota. Trustee Dickson commented that the Chair does not need a resolution by virtue of his office and that he speaks for the Board and has already begun conversations. Following a discussion that included General Counsel's opinion that no action is

example, it has been ten years now that K-12 has vacated technical education and now they are figuring out that they need to bring it back.

Chair Thiss asked the Trustees to evaluate the retreat. The background materials were purposely brief so that the Trustees would come with only their good thoughts. Several of the Trustees remarked that the conversations were meaningful, engaging and productive. They liked the audience participation. Trustees also liked the sm