

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Conveners' Reports

President Opatz reported that he was pleased to present the draft report, Charting the Future of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. He commented that higher education is continuing to undergo dramatic change.

President Olson highlighted some of the questions that were addressed by each workgroup.

Education of the Future Workgroup

As we think about the changes in our students, changes in technology, changes in the nature of work, changes in the world in which our graduates will work, and the multiple careers that our graduates will hold, how can we best prepare graduates for work, life, and citizenship? What should a MnSCU education of the future look like? What are the roles of undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, and life-long learning?

What should be the role of e-education in MnSCU? What is our competitive advantage?

How do we define and measure quality?

Workforce of the Future Workgroup:

How should we ensure that our academic programs are aligned with Minnesota's community, regional and statewide workforce needs so they deliver graduates with the foundational and technical skills needed for the jobs of today as well as tomorrow?

How can our customized training, professional development, and continuing education programs better serve learners as well as business and industry?

System of the Future Workgroup

In light of all of the changes that have occurred since the founding of the system and that will occur over the years ahead, and in light of the changes that will occur in MnSCU's education and workforce strategies, what should the MnSCU system of the future look like?

President Olson remarked that these questions engendered very lively debate, discussion and dissent, but always with great civility. The workgroups engaged in a way that you would think higher education would tackle these big, tough, complex questions. The workgroups reviewed over 150 articles and reviewed 50 different data sets to address these questions.

The six draft recommendations are:

1. Better align our program offerings and services to state, workforce and learner needs by developing and implementing a statewide academic plan and a statewide master facilities plan.
2. Certify the competencies our graduates have mastered.
3. Increase access to our colleges and universities and ~~accelerate~~ educational success of students.
4. Create a comprehensive, statewide ~~education~~ education strategy.
5. Deliver leading edge continuing education and customized training to students and employers through statewide collaboration.
6. Enable recommended strategic ~~priorities~~ priorities to be realized by redesigning the system's financial and governance model.

President Olson explained that ~~the~~ draft recommendation has detailed actionable strategic directions. He reiterated that these draft recommendations are just the beginning. There will be much more listening, discussion, debate and engagement leading up to the final report and recommendations that will be presented in the fall.

President Ron Thomas, who served as the convener of the Workgroup of the Future, remarked that this has been an exhilarating and wonderful exercise that will benefit all of Minnesota. On behalf of his fellow conveners, he thanked each of the ~~participants~~ participants, several who were present today, for their expertise and guidance to the draft report and ~~recommendations~~ recommendations. He also thanked Karen Hynick and Ken Ries, Chancellors' Fellows, and Mary Rothchild, ~~the~~ system director of workforce.

President Thomas added that this topic is being discussed throughout the United States. Last week, he attended a ~~meeting~~ meeting with college and university presidents from California, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine and Ohio, and they are all dealing with the same issues. He summarized that he applauded the Board of Trustees for moving this effort forward, and he looked forward to their discussion at the September retreat.

Questions/Comments from Trustees

Trustee Anderson Kelliher complimented the conveners and Chancellors' Fellows for a process that was rigorous. From the moment we looked at the draft report three weeks ago, like three different groups had worked on a piece of it. Today's ~~draft~~ draft is polished and synthesized in a way that makes sense to take it and think about it. It will lead to much discussion inside and outside of the system and will be ~~an~~ a ~~great~~ great asset for conversation. She complimented Chancellor Rosenstone on the design of the strategic workgroups. Chair Hightower announced that many of the workgroup participants were in the audience, and he asked them to stand and be recognized. The board and audience delivered a round of applause.

Chancellor Rosenstone reviewed the consultation plan over the next four months. There will be informal and formal meetings through the meet and confer process. There will be multiple opportunities for consultation with

President Olson commented that the scope of the report is that it encompasses many different perspectives. Trustee Benson suggested that the report may want to mention that the reason for why we are doing this is because the system is not sustainable. Trustee Sundin offered that one of the things that we are doing is to better educate Minnesotans. Chancellor Rosenstone commented that these are strategies to realize commitments we have made to support the Strategic Framework. We need to keep in mind