

Minnesota State/MSUAASF Meet and Confer

September 25, 2020

ZOOM Meeting (COVID-19)

Present: Devinder Malhotra, Tracy Rahim, Ann Maile, Rachel Tanquist, Jim Jorstad, William Maki, Jillian Quandt, Victor Cole, Jim Anderson, Scott Goings, Lori Wynia, Sue Appelquist, Tim Alcorn, Stephanie Bard, Layne Anderson, Paul Stern, Chris Dale, Brian Yolitz, Josh Lease, Amanda Wister, Kristy Modrow, Jaime Simonsen, Craig Munson, Ron Anderson, Jamie Nordstrom, Nate Hallanger, Todd Thorsgaard, Eric Davis, Steve Ernest, Teri Hinds

1. COVID-19 (MSUAASF)

Victor Cole discussed student safety for students who are doing off-campus learning experience. Brian Yolitz stated the guidance Victor shared was the same that the system recommends with off-site locations having a safety plan in place and stressing the importance of masks, social distancing, and handwashing. Victor also asked who is responsible for PPE for off-campus sites. Brain answered that that has been an ongoing discussion and dialogue between host sites and institutions regarding who pays for testing. Victor Cole added that he is received feedback from students that it would be helpful to have those costs tied into student fees so that they can use financial aid to cover the costs. Chancellor Malhotra added that tests will be available for all our employees. William Maki stated that they are talking with testing vendors to discuss how this would be implemented at college and universities. Brian Yolitz added that this will likely work similarly to K-12 with Zoom proctoring and mail-in tests.

Paul Stern asked about system guidance regarding the turning the dial activities. Nate Hallanger discussed the color-coded frameworks that are being monitored and that campuses are able to make qualitative and subjective judgements based on the data available which means that campuses may make different decisions based on their local situations. William Maki added that he had extensive discussion with the Winona board before the quarantine decision which allowed for timely and thought out decision making. Paul also raised the question of communication plans to streamline campus communications for faculty and students. William Maki discussed the media focus of COVID cases on higher education campuses. COVID-19 contact calls currently involve all colleges and universities and what has been going well on campuses for good modelling for other campuses.

Tracy Rahim asked about the revised telework policy. Eric Davis answered that MMB listed that they require a new acknowledgement form by October 30th, but Minnesota State asked for clarification in this based on our specific needs, especially around remote teaching. Messages will be tailored to each campus and published early next week along with the updated forms being posted for employees to complete. Tracy asked for reasoning behind the update. Eric answered that one reason was that the

policy updated to allow dependent children at home while working. A second reason is to explicitly allow for more flexible work schedules. A third reason is to clarify working while in another state since there are payroll tax implications. Chris Dale added that teleworking used to be determined by mutual agreement, whereas now it is written due to acknowledgement for individuals who are required to work from home due to the governor's office. Layne Anderson asked about teleworking out of state since he received local guidance that working in North Dakota is exempt. Eric gave guidance for Layne to connect with his local HR office who will have more information on payroll tax implications.

2. FY2022-2023 Biennial Budget Request (Minnesota State)

William Maki presented the biennial budget request that will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees. He first reviewed budget development timeline. For the 2020-2021 biennium, MinnState requested money to fund inflation, NextGen, funding for Equity 2030 initiatives, and money for programming to decrease the workforce gap. Last year we received 81.5 million of the 246-million-dollar request. We were unable to submit a supplemental budget request due to the pandemic. The most important priorities for the upcoming year are funding for the Equity 2030 initiative, campus operational support, and affordability. Chancellor Malhotra added that our budget priorities reflect our values. William Maki asked ASF for any feedback or ideas

3. Enrollment Update (MSUAASF)

Overall, there is a 6.7% decline in enrollment. Enrollment for the summer term was up 4% for the seven colleges and universities and the system was up 4.5% this summer including the two-year colleges. Universities overall are down 5.6% for fall year-to-date, but there is a wide variety between campuses since one is up 2% in enrollment, three are down 2.5-3%, and three are down 7.5+%. Graduate enrollment is currently up 3%. Enrollment has been declining for the last several years. Tracy asked about system strategies to combat spring enrollment melt. Ron Anderson stated that the marketing department is working to strengthen system and campus messaging. Next month is college knowledge month to expand awareness. Most work is being completed at the institutional level. Ron Anderson believes that having a more concrete plan for spring may help students make enrollment decisions earlier.

4. Chief Diversity Officer Update (Minnesota State and MSUAASF)

Chancellor Malhotra stated that the position has significantly evolved over the last several years and that the position is integral to the Equity 2030 goal. This position will be at the Vice Chancellor level and Chancellor Malhotra is working closely with the board. The goal is to start the search in January with the goal for the position to be filled with April and May. Tracy asked if Chancellor Malhotra is planning on having constituents as a part

of the search committee. Chancellor Malhotra confirmed that bargaining units and internal stakeholders will be involved in the search.

5. Information Technology (Minnesota State)

- Vice Chancellor of IT Update

Ramon Padilla has recently taken a position with the University of Tennessee system. There is a critical need to have stability and continuity with this position, especially with the NextGen process. IT has a strong leadership team which will allow for continuity and stability in the process.

- NextGen ERP Update

Jamie Nordstrom stated that we are still in the RFP/negotiations process. The timeline will need to be updated since it originally listed that this process would be completed in July. Chancellor Malhotra added that the negotiations process is challenging since there are limited vendors nationally, but he is confident we will successfully complete negotiations. Tracy Rahim asked how this delay will affect the timeline moving forward. Chancellor Malhotra answered that while the goal is to do some catchup, the timeline will likely need to be pushed back.

6. Equity 2030 Update

Teri Hinds discussed what is occurring with the Equity 2030 initiative. The six areas of the Equity 2030 initiative are what we are already doing but the initiative focuses on how we do it. We need to operationalize what we do to reduce unintentional barriers for students, including reviewing our policies and procedures, our physical spaces, and our internal rewards for doing equity work. The current priorities are looking at how we can support students, cultural fluency, and data fluency. Lori Wynia asked if the data will be made available to campuses. Teri responded that the data obtained will be made public to the campuses and supports made available for campuses to use this data. Ron Anderson added that campuses currently have access to much of the data Teri discussed. Jillian Quandt asked about program specific data and being able to compare across institutions. Teri answered that NextGen may give us some interesting insights. Ron also answered that campus specific program reviews may be able to then be compared system-wide by disaggregating the data.

7. Required Training

Todd Thorsgaard discussed the system safety and compliance training. There are nine required annual training courses. Todd Thorsgaard stated they have been working

campus by campus to roll out the trainings to employees. Tracy will follow up online with ASF members to determine what campuses have not heard the information.

Future Meetings:

December 4, 2020 – 10:30-12:00 ■ February 19, 2021 – 10:30-12:00 ■ April 30, 2021 – 10:30-12:00

Notes recorded by Rachel Tanquist, MSUAASF State Secretary