

Minnesota State/MSUAASF Meet and Confer

February 18, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Devinder Malhotra, Tracy Rahim, Rachel Sherlock, Sami Gabriel, Lori Wynia, Tania Schmidt, John Brown, Jacquelyn Malcolm, Chris Dale, Jim Jorstad, Melissa Fahning, Erin Kline, Jillian Quandt, Ron Anderson, Sandi Sibley-Gerick, Sue Appelquist, Christian Brezinski, Kristy Modrow, Mandy Weister, Tom Boylan, Nate Hallanger, Jaime Simonsen, Tom Reburn, Andriel Dees

1. International Education/Study Abroad Update

There is a Global Education meeting happening later today. Tracy noted we received concerns from our campuses regarding restricting study abroad travel to level 3 and level 4 areas. Our campuses have noted recruitment and academic concerns since our students are not able to take part in these educational programs. Ron Anderson noted that they are hearing these concern and have lifted the study abroad moratorium. They are working under the current policy and procedure to require chancellor approval for level 3 and level 4 countries. Ron noted that the policy may need to be reviewed regarding country level classifications for study abroad. Nate noted that the state department is also reviewing the level classifications for countries. Tracy asked if any MinnState policy review would include both faculty lead and third-party program providers. Ron responded affirmatively.

Lori asked if there were any updates from the system-wide committee reviewing online learning for international students. Ron gave an update that by offering online courses in other countries, it is considered doing business in other countries so general counsel is reviewing the legal implications and concerns regarding this. Ron hopes to have additional information in the next few weeks. Tania Schmidt asked if there are technical consultants in the committee regarding VPN and other technical level issues. Ron answered that he will be consulting with Jacqueline regarding this. Tania also noted that they should consult with campuses since campuses may already have effective procedures in place for this.

Chancellor Malhotra noted that we are moving from a pandemic to an endemic state, and we are working through the transition and learning how to open up our activities in a safe and effective manner.

2. Legislative Update

Melissa Fahning noted that there is a 7.7 billion dollar surplus that will likely grow. The supplemental budget request is central in this session. The House Higher Education Committee is listening to IFO, MSCF, and students. The Senate and House Higher Education Committee are taking different approaches. The House side seems to want to spend more money via tuition relief, the state grant program, and debt reduction. It seems that the committees are moving from the presentation review stage to the bills stage.

This is a bonding year and the House Capital Investment Committee is meeting around the clock. 292 million dollar bonding request. The goal is to have local legislators create bills to support these requests. The house will put together this bill and it will likely not get bipartisan support. The governor is supportive of our bonding request and all 20 projects on the list. The contract ratification bill has been introduced and the bill is on the agenda for review. Our contract is on this bill.

Kristy asked if adding law enforcement to workforce development scholarships is something that MinnState supports. The bill wants to add 20 million dollars to the scholarship programs, and to include law enforcement students in this request. MinnState is not actively legislating for this bill since it was not in our original Board of Trustees request.

Kristy discussed our legislative agenda to share with legislators and shared that our virtual Lobby Day will be held on March 9th via Zoom to share our legislative priorities. We ran a training session on February 7th for our members to learn more on how to talk with legislators. Melissa stated to let her know if there's anything their team can do to assist with these efforts.

Tracy asked if the surplus would cause a stalemate in the legislature. Melissa answered that our split government may cause a potential stalemate. It is also an election year and a redistricting year which further complicates things. Tracy shared that we had discussed changing our supervisory roles, but that we as a bargaining unit have decided not to pursue this. We had a great meeting with Eric Davis and Chris Dale regarding WorkDay and the approval of timesheets and that it will not just be limited to official supervisors but will include individuals with supervisory functions.

3. Equity 2030 Update

Andriel Dees discussed the Equity Scorecard. Tracy noted that Andriel offered to meet with ASF to further discuss the Equity Scorecard and that we will find a date to meet. Andriel stated her appreciation for the inputs so far regarding the data collected and definitions. Andriel stated that we're looking at diversity recruitment for strategies for both employees and students to increase retention for both groups since they have vastly different retention needs. Andriel has been pushing out opportunities to meet with bargaining unit stakeholders regarding the Equity Scorecard. Tania asked about the equity toolkit and reviewing our processes with an equity lens since it doesn't fall under our quantitative review. Andriel answered that we're trying to find out where we are from an existing data point, and then expanding to look at our processes for a full narrative picture going forward. Chancellor Malhotra noted that it is hard to capture the richness and depth of what institutions are doing because every institution has different processes and procedures. Tania responded that she hopes that the toolkit can include resources for campuses to be able to review their local practices in addition to the existing data in ISRS.

4. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal #7 Update

ASF supports a review for all goal areas to make sure that these goal areas are relevant for our students. Tracy also noted that it is important to protect instructors' ability to create courses within these goal areas. Tania asked about the feedback they've received regarding Goal 7, the concerns surrounding Goal 7, and some important topics that are not covered under the existing goals. Ron answered that they will be reviewing the feedback and finding items that have not been considered previously. The University of Minnesota is also reviewing their general education requirements so there are questions on collaborating with joint goals and plans. Tania expressed her appreciation for Ron noted that they wanted to do the framework up front for the other goal area reviews to improve on the process that was done for Goal Area #7.

5. Metropolitan State Human Resources

ASF raised this concern to make sure that HR functions are being covered since the majority of the campus's HR office is currently not staffed. Sue Appelquist stated that they recently hired two talent acquisition specialists and have 15 search pools. The central office is working closely with the campus to move those searches along. The HR transactions and payroll are done through the service center. From a system office perspective, the campus president is working closely with the total rewards unit to make sure things are moving along. She has recently done 10 salary calculations and 10 new hires. The campus is also working closely with labor relations and working with central HR when questions or issues come up. The central office is aware, paying close attention, and making sure that things do not fall through the cracks. While they can't send a person to help, they are as a unit helping the campus.