

TRUSTEE CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building

Present:

Ben Vander Kooi, Jr., Chair
Joe Aitken
Nancy Black
Judith Christianson
Jerry Christenson
Yvonne Condell
Kent Eklund
Brenda Elmer
Tony Kielkucki
Jody Olson
Ruth Orrick
Earl Rasmussen
David Sturrock
Chris Wachtler

Absent:

Muriel Abram
Greg Anderson
George Cassell
Susan Hankner
Hubert Humphrey IV
Connie Morrison
Donald Sudor
Billie Young, Vice Chair
Larry Zavadil

The Trustee Candidate Advisory (TCAC) was called to order by Ben Vander Kooi, TCAC Chair, at 1:35 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building. A quorum was present.

Mr. Vander Kooi introduced MnSCU Chancellor James McCormick, who addressed the council. The Chancellor discussed his three-year strategic plan and asked the council to be mindful of the challenges facing MnSCU which include: increasing capacity and opportunity; coordinating and expanding high class competitive academic programs and offerings; strengthening community development and integration; communicating more effectively with employers and being more responsive to business community; and increasing capacity to raise funds privately from federal government and other partners.

Chancellor McCormick responded to questions from the council. In response to a question about MnSCU's legislative bonding request, the Chancellor talked about MnSCU's strategy. He explained that MnSCU has a process by which all bonding projects are ranked prior to coming to the legislature for support. That ranking is used by the Governor and legislators to help them decide which projects to fund. It helps MnSCU because the various institutions within MnSCU are not speaking against bonding requests of fellow MnSCU institutions thereby creating a more unified and effective bonding request.

In response to a question about which skill sets and/or experiences would be most useful for the board, the Chancellor responded by saying the council should look for candidates who understand and appreciate the challenges of large complex organizations. He explained that MnSCU likely has more physical space than all Target stores combined in Minnesota, so the board does not need members who micromanage. He also commented that the board needs members to be change agents – over half of jobs ten years from now have yet to be created and higher education will have to be responsive to this phenomenon.

The council thanked Chancellor McCormick for his time and input.

Mr. Vander Kooi advised the council that two of the applications for the MnSCU Board of Trustees had come in after the February 20, 2004, 4:30 p.m. deadline. Discussion ensued. Yvonne Condell moved to accept the late applications, numbers 41 and 42. Seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Minutes

Brenda Elmer moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on January 9, 2004. Seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Agenda

Judy Christianson moved approval of the agenda. Seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Announcements

Chad Thuet reviewed the current makeup of the MnSCU Board of Trustees; nine males, three females; two African American, and one Native American. Only one male incumbent submitted an application. The council agreed to target twenty applicants to be interviewed and at least eight, but not more than sixteen, would be recommended to the Governor. Mr. Vander Kooi noted that the board needs representation of men, women, and minorities.

Mr. Thuet reviewed H.F. 2177, which would require the TCAC and RCAC membership to include one member representing labor organizations and one member representing the business community. Mr. Thuet then discussed S.F. 1949, which provides the option for state colleges and universities to elect self-governance.

Sandy Keene clarified that MnSCU Board of Trustee application #6 lives in the 8th congressional district, but out of respect for the incumbent, he only wanted to be considered for an at-large seat. Application #24 currently lives in the 2nd congressional district, but only wanted to be considered for an at-large seat as he will be moving out of that congressional district soon.

Mr. Vander Kooi reviewed the duties of the council; to recommend to the Governor a minimum of two and a maximum of four candidates for each open seat on the Board of Trustees.

The council discussed candidates and reached consensus on some, then voted on those who were not consensus selections. After discussion and voting, the council selected the following 20 people to be interviewed: John Annexstad, Mary Connor, Bob Erickson, Gary Evans, Tom Forsythe, Tom Heaney, Mike Howe, Thomas Jensen, John Longtin, Andrew Lucero, Jim Luoma, Lois Mack, Rolf Middleton, Bill Moore, Jim Morris, Jo Nelson, Mark Piepho, Tom Renier, Maureen Steinwall, and Roy Wallace.

Judy Olson moved to close balloting. Seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Members of the council volunteered to make congratulatory calls to those candidates selected and instructed staff to set up the interview times. The regrets/thank you and congratulatory letters were reviewed by members. Regrets letters would be sent out immediately following adjournment of the meeting.

Mr. Aitken informed the council that he would have to miss the interviews. Mr. Eklund stated that he will be unable to be at the interviews the morning of Monday, March 29th, and will need an audio tape of those interviews.

Discussion ensued regarding voting procedures and reference checks. It was decided that the council would remain consistent with what they have done in the past and not do reference checks.

The next meetings will be held March 29, 30 and 31, 2004, to conduct interviews.

Mr. Rasmussen moved to adjourn. Seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Ben Vander Kooi, Jr., Chair