

TRUSTEE CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 4, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Room 5, State Office Building

Present:

Kent Eklund, Chair
Joe Aitken
Nancy Black
George Cassell
Carl Crimmins
John Dorn
Brenda Elmer
Kelley Koemptgen
Liz Kuoppala
Dave Larkin
Ruth Orrick
Lisa Peilen
John Poupart
Earl Rasmussen
Don Sudor
Chris Wachtler
Bruce Watkins
Billie Young

Excused:

Yvonne Condell
Dean Doyscher
Kathleen Enz Finken
Zainab Hassan
Buck Humphrey
Del Jenkins

The Trustee Candidate Advisory (TCAC) was called to order by Kent Eklund, TCAC Chair, at 1:05 pm in Room 5 of the State Office Building. A quorum was present.

Mr. Eklund welcomed all TCAC members and reviewed the agenda. Introductions were made around the table.

Guest Speakers

Mr. Eklund welcomed and introduced David Olson, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Board of Trustees Chair. Trustee Olson addressed the time commitment of trustees. He pointed out that membership on the board utilizes approximately 20% to 25% of a trustees' total time. Trustee Olson stated they are trying to reduce the time commitment. He added the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have a good chancellor and good presidents in place to manage the system. Trustee Olson pointed out the roll of the Board of Trustees is to set policy for the system, not to manage the system.

In looking for board members, Trustee Olson stated he would look for individuals with open minds and key interests in higher education. Trustee Olson stated two of the four trustees with terms expiring in 2008 have indicated interest in reappointment to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Eklund asked whether governance experience, notably in moderate to large complex

systems, was an important criterion for board members. Trustee Olson responded that both governance and policy experience are critical.

Mr. Watkins raised questions regarding the per diems for board members. Trustee Olson stated members may be compensated \$55 a day for board related activities and the mileage compensated is based on the current IRS rate. He noted the goal is not to make the commitment to the board an expense commitment.

Mr. Eklund asked whether there were any specific issues coming up in the next six year period that would be unusual or would help the TCAC frame their thoughts when reviewing candidates. In response, Trustee Olson spoke to four goals the board has already laid out. First, the Board is aware that in the next six years there will be a need for a new chancellor. The Board of Trustees will manage the selection process for the new chancellor. Second, the board will focus on serving the underserved and analyzing the future workforce. Third, the board will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives by encouraging students into careers in STEM fields and by producing more teachers in STEM fields. Finally, the board is putting together an economic model to learn the real cost of attending a MnSCU school.

Ms. Peilen asked if MnSCU was feeling competition from on-line educators. Trustee Olson stated they are feeling the competition, but MnSCU has increased there on-line courses as well. Ms. Peilen then inquired whether the management of the physical property MnSCU possesses is a liability in competing with on-line educators. Trustee Olson stated the real estate properties including upgrading and maintaining the buildings is a high cost, but the physical institutions are a part of the communities where they are located and are often economic engines to those communities. In order for MnSCU to compete and survive, campuses will need to work more closely, and be more nimble in terms of updating curriculum and keeping up with the changing economy.

Mr. Larkin inquired into the role of trustees in the development of curriculum. Trustee Olson responded that unless it had to do with policy or there was a problem, the board would have no role in the development of curriculum. He stated faculty and staffs likely have a better understanding of the curriculum than the board.

Mr. Eklund thanked Trustee Olson for addressing the council and requested Trustee Olson encourage the incumbents interested in reappointment re-apply and go through the TCAC process.

Mr. Eklund introduced Susan Heegaard, Director of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. Ms. Heegaard gave an overview of the governor's appointment process. She noted the governor takes the appointment process very seriously. Ms. Heegaard pointed out that two of the four trustees appointed in 2006 were from the TCAC recommendations. Ms. Heegaard stated the governor tries to look at TCAC candidate recommendations. In his selection process, the governor looks at the overall compensation of the board in terms of system and organizational experience. Ms. Heegaard stated the governor is looking for board members that are interested and engaged; able to work collaboratively; think innovatively and strategically; and have exposure to education and policy.

Ms. Young asked Ms. Heegaard for suggestions for methods to find the best applicants. Ms. Heegaard stated that to reach different groups the description of the role of a trustee must be

clear. Mr. Eklund requested that if the governor has other candidates in mind that he request their names be put in the TCAC process. Ms. Heegaard stated that she does encourage interested candidates to go through the TCAC process.

Mr. Eklund thanked Ms. Heegaard for addressing the council.

Minutes

Billie Young moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 3, 2007 meeting. Seconded. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Subcommittee Reports

Publicity/Recruitment – Mr. Eklund submitted the subcommittee report from December 21, 2007. He stated their goal was to ensure every channel was pursued to make certain all qualified candidates were aware of the TCAC process. Mr. Eklund asked all members to utilize any contacts they have with media to help with recruitment. Mr. Eklund also requested that if any member had additional contacts to forward that information onto staff.

Policy/Procedures – Ms. Koemptgen submitted the subcommittee report from December 20, 2007. She stated the subcommittee reviewed both the application and screening process and had no changes. She noted the subcommittee had a detailed discussion on the reference checking policy and agreed it worked well during the 2006 cycle.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 7th at 1:00 pm. At this meeting members will hear from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor James McCormick, screen applications and select interviewees. The interviews were scheduled for April 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Mr. Sudor moved to adjourn the meeting of the Trustee Candidate Advisory Council. Seconded. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

There being no further business to discuss, Kent Eklund adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Kent Eklund, Chair