

THE MINNESOTA P-16 PARTNERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

JUNE 18, 2008

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

1:00 – 3:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Present: Chuck Wiger, Bob Meeks, Grace Schwab, Robert Bruininks, Jane Gilles, Susan Heegaard, Laura Bloomberg, Cyndy Crist, Jim Meffert, Joellen Gonder Spacek, Sean Kershaw, Robert Jones, Geoff Maruyama, Jim Bartholomew, Bill Blazar, Lois Bollman, Linda Baer, Cathy Wagner, Karen Klinzing, David Laird, Paula Martin, Mary Lou Dresbach, Alexandra Djurovich, Bill DeJohn, Jeanne Herrmann, Amy Nelson, Jennifer Godinez, Kent Pekel, Barb Schlaefer, Jan Dubinsky, Steve Kelley

1. Announcements

- Vanishing Graduates & Minnesota's Future's program

David Laird distributed copies of the documentary produced by the Minnesota Private College Council in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television. The documentary examines why a shrinking number of Minnesota students will be graduating from college and what these vanishing graduates means for Minnesota's economy. The documentary has been given to major educational, business, and service organizations, as well as to members of the legislature.

- Minnesota College Access Network

Jennifer Godinez distributed copies of MCAN's latest publication. She stated that the main focus of MCAN's work in the coming year will be the emerging cost of education. Chair Bruininks added that it is very important that information on the cost of college is widely available and accurate, and that often the value of scholarships and other aid are not covered in the media. Susan Heegaard noted that HEAC may want to participate in the effort to relay clear messages, and suggested meeting together with editorial boards. Jim Meffert said that their membership is interested in the information as well.

- Office of Higher Education

Susan Heegaard distributed the April 2008 update of *Minnesota Measures*, which replaces an earlier edition. She described the expanded sets of data and progress in measuring the five goals.

2. Working Group Updates

The Chair asked each working group to provide a brief update on their efforts to date.

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness: The chairs (Karen Klinzing, Laura Bloomberg, and Cyndy Crist) reported that two meetings have been held to date and they plan to meet every other month with their work completed by May 2009. The group now has a blog site which includes a list of resources. Cyndy Crist stated that the group will focus on multiple audiences and include a

plan for how to communicate with each. Kent Pekel added that the group is trying to define readiness across all educational organizations. Chair Bruininks suggested that the group include some kind of public education strategy along with their report.

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness in Science: Co-Chair Jan Dubinsky reported on behalf of co-chair Beth Aune. They have met as a full group three times. At the second meeting, Ray Jones from ACT provided the group with relevant data, and they have gathered national and international standards in order to compare them with Minnesota's. The working group was broken down into disciplines (history & nature, life sciences, physical sciences, and earth and space sciences), and each discipline group researched and submitted reports. These were discussed by the full committee, who then formed a report writing team to combine the reports into a first draft by July 10. They will meet jointly with the Science Instruction group on August 1, and discuss shared issues. Jan Dubinsky noted that two themes emerge frequently in their work: "standard vs. teaching technique" and "content vs. process." They plan to provide a report to the MDE's science standards reviewing committee by August 1. In response to a question as to whether the legislature has to approve the academic standards, Karen Klinzing said the MDE committee will submit first draft of proposed revisions to the legislature in September for a public hearing. After that it goes through the administrative rulemaking process. The timetable depends on the amount of revisions to be made, and the amount of controversy.

Chair Bruininks requested that the recommendations be sent to members of P-16 in advance of their October meeting. Kent Pekel added that a short document outlining the working group's ideas on college and workforce readiness in science will be reviewed by the full membership of the Partnership and then disseminated broadly across the state during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Science Instruction: Co-Chair Steve Kelley reported on behalf of co-chairs Liesl Chatman and Judith Ramaley. The group decided after its first meeting that it needed to add members representing the worlds of elementary science education and business and has since recruited a good group of additional members from both of those communities. They are using the Partnership for 21st Century Skills framework to guide their work. They will hold a joint meeting in August with the standards committee. Linda Baer said that MnSCU has several 'weeder to feeder' pilots trying to change the model of math and science courses that have often been used to weed out students at the postsecondary level. David Laird asked if the committee members were willing to break out of the biology/chemistry/physics schedule in high schools, and Steve Kelly said the topic has come up in their conversations and that while he couldn't speak for the working group members at this point, at least the co-chairs were willing to consider proposing such reforms. Karen Klinzing added that the MDE Science Standards committee is looking at that idea as well. The P-16 Science Instruction group will also look at whether math/science specialists are a good idea in elementary schools, and integrating science across the curriculum. Cyndy Crist noted that these recommendations will have implications for teacher preparation and licensure. Bob Meeks asked 'who sets the standards in higher ed?', and the

answer was the discipline as represented by the professor and the department, and monitored through accreditations of the institution. Kent Pekel recommended a paper by Clifford Adelman on changes in European Union higher education, which will be distributed to all members.

Data Systems: Co-Chair Susan Heegaard reported that the legislature adopted a law to permit OHE and MDE to share student information. A joint OHE-MDE technical group has agreed on the core group data elements needed for analysis. They will use the MARSS number to track students. Susan Heegaard asked the group to identify the research questions they should be addressing. Bob Bruininks asked if academic researchers could have access to the data. Susan Heegaard said that would happen, but they have not set the terms yet. Senator Wiger said that funding to conduct the work could be available through the U.S. Department of Education (contact Dr. Grover Whitehurst). Susan Heegaard and David Laird noted the data is not meant to be shared outside Minnesota.

3. Legislative Membership in P-16: Chair Bruininks explained that the bill requiring legislative membership on P-16 was passed, but contained in a larger bill that the governor vetoed. He believes a similar bill will be introduced next session and passed, unless P-16 acts first. P-16 members expressed a strong desire to keep the collegial and productive atmosphere of the roundtable. If legislative members attend meetings or join the partnership, several members suggested that it would be appropriate to not propose legislation or seek appropriations (consistent with current practice.) Chair Bruininks asked Kent Pekel to work with Senator Wiger and other legislators to develop potential options for legislative involvement in the P-16 Partnership that can be considered by the Partnership members via e-mail or at the fall, 2008 meeting. Cyndy Crist also noted that she had the original list of criteria for membership, and would provide that to the chair.

4. Early Childhood Representation: Due to shortage of time, and his schedule, Chair Bruininks asked Kent Pekel to discuss this and the last item on the agenda. Mr. Pekel noted that there were 3 suggested early childhood organizations, although one was an advocacy organization rather than representing membership. The suggestion was to charge the small group of P-16 members who will attend the national P-16 conference this summer to consider the issue, and make the recommendation to the full P-16 Partnership in the fall. The group concurred with this.

5. Potential Additional P-16 Priorities: There have been three additional priorities discussed during President Bruininks' term as chair, including teacher preparation, early childhood education, and long-term strategies for prek-12 and higher education improvement. Financing higher education was added today as another priority. Kent Pekel said that a short concept paper should be prepared to explain why the Partnership felt they are important. The group concurred.