

**Minnesota P-20 Partnership
18 December 2015
3:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Gross Family Board Room, 5th Floor, McNamara Alumni Center,
University of Minnesota**

Meeting Notes

Voting members and designees in attendance:

Eric Kaler (chair), Steve Rosenstone, Larry Pogemiller, Mai-Ahn Kapanke, Denise Specht, Dave Adney, Kirk Scheidawind, Eugene Piccolo, Paul Cerkvenik, Steve Dibb, Katie Misukanis, Representative Sondra Erickson, Tim Benz, Captain Mindy Davis, Tom Norman, Jim Bartholomew, Bill Blazar.

Others in attendance:

Pakou Yang, Sara Gjerdrum, Grace Keliher, Greg Clausen, Joe Nathan, Julie Sweitzer, Beth Aune, Jody Withers, Carmen Johnson, Melvin Carter III, Shaun Williams-Wyche, Jon Steadland, Janet Kendra.

1. Approval of minutes

The membership unanimously approved the minutes from December 2014 and April 2015.

2. Identification of goals and priorities for 2015-16 academic year

A. Future of the P-20 Partnership

President Kaler noted that the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership is a body required by statute, initially approved the Legislature in 2009. He noted that there has been a worthwhile discussion of the merits of the group moving forward and observed that Commissioner Casselius has stated that she would have discussions with members of the Legislature on the current P-20 structure and whether the Partnership was needed. Deputy Commissioner Steve Dibb observed that there was no update from the Department of Education on legislative viewpoints on this issue, but that they would continue to discuss options moving forward with legislators. Representative Sondra Erickson observed that there are important linkages that occur as a result of the Partnership and noted that the group's meetings ensure that policymakers are not left out of the discussion on particular issues. Chancellor Rosenstone acknowledged the linkages that happen because of P-20, but noted as well that the partnerships developed on an ad hoc basis from work on particular issues are equally as important. President Kaler urged continued discussion on this issue moving forward.

B. January 2016 Legislative Report

Jon Steadland from the University of Minnesota reviewed the *Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership 2015 Report to the Legislature* and observed that the report focused on the recommendations of workgroups that were formed in response to the 2014 State legislation on career pathways and technical education. He noted that the 2015 report will likely not include as much substance given that there was no statutory requirements in 2015 legislation. Steadland welcomed any issues to be included in the report and noted that a draft of the 2015 report will be made available to the Partnership in early January for review.

3. Issue Discussion

A. Update on work surrounding meeting the new HLC standard for concurrent enrollment

President Kaler observed that the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) clarification that it will be enforcing a longstanding expectation that faculty teaching general education courses hold a master's degree in the discipline or subfield they teach is clearly an important subject for discussion. He acknowledged that there were several individuals representing organizations, both members of the P-20 Partnerships and those that are not, that were interested in addressing the issue.

Chancellor Rosenstone observed that despite the fact that the HLC has instituted a five-year delay in this decision, MnSCU firmly believes that protecting concurrent enrollment programs is critical and that the focus must be on how as a system they are able to meet the standards while at the same time lobbying the HLC for changes. Kirk Schneidawind of the Minnesota School Boards association noted that the K-12 community must be actively engaged in this discussion moving forward, despite the fact that it affects districts in disproportionate ways.

Joe Nathan of the Center for School Change commented that the decision has the potential to have significant negative consequences and that the P-20 Partnership should contribute to challenging the HLC. President Kaler acknowledged that this issue needs further consideration and that the Partnership and its members will continue to engage in dialogue on how to move forward.

B. MN Legislature – College Attainment Goal

President Kaler introduced the discussion of the 2015 State legislation adopting a measure of attainment of postsecondary credentials. The statute language puts forth the goal that number of Minnesota residents ages 25 to 44 who hold postsecondary degrees or certificates should be increased to at least 70 percent by 2025.

Shaun Williams-Wyche of the Office of Higher Education provided background information on the current status of postsecondary attainment. Currently, Minnesota is second in the nation in this metric with 49 percent of Minnesotans age 25 and older having an associate degree or higher. He observed that this rate varies dramatically by race and ethnicity and that the metric is significantly affected by the changing demographics of Minnesota, with the percent of people of color increasing from four percent in 1980 to a project 28 percent in 2040. Williams-Wyche noted that the primary levers for increasing attainment are traditionally thought to be best-fit postsecondary enrollment, college readiness, and retention/graduation efforts.

Commissioner Pogemiller observed that the legislation is essentially an unfunded mandate, but hoped that future legislative investments will be forthcoming. He commented that the discussion needs to veer from simply being about college cost to include the development of pipelines from the K12 community. Deputy Commissioner Dibb agreed and noted that the focus on meeting the metric must be comprehensive and not isolated to only higher education.

Mai-Ahn Kapanke of the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) commented that the coordination between K-12 and higher education organizations must also include groups such as the MPM to comprehensively leverage the work happening in this space. President Kaler observed that this will be an appropriate topic for the P-20 Partnership to work on this year and proposed devoting significant meeting time to addressing potential opportunities for improvement.

4. Next Meeting & Adjournment

President Kaler noted that the next meeting of the P-20 Partnership would be on March 10, 2016. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.