



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

## **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Member Duties and Activities**

### **System Overview**

The Board of Trustees for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system governs 31 state universities, community colleges and technical colleges with 54 campuses in 47 communities throughout the state and is fifth largest system of its kind in the U.S. MnSCU colleges and universities have a broad and deep impact on regional economies, citizens and businesses. The system serves 420,000 students annually, providing access to higher education for new high school graduates, adult learners, and workers and professionals retooling to meet the current and future needs of Minnesota's businesses. MnSCU colleges and universities educate 60 percent of Minnesota's undergraduates and confer more than 40,000 degrees, certificates and diplomas each year. In addition, MnSCU campuses deliver 6,000 customized training programs to businesses throughout the state, helping to ensure that more than 120,000 workers each year are up-to-date on the latest technologies needed to remain productive and competitive.

### **Strategic Framework**

MnSCU plays an essential role in growing Minnesota's economy and opening the doors of educational opportunity to all Minnesotans. To guide the actions of MnSCU leaders in fulfilling this role, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Strategic Framework, which makes three core commitments to the people of Minnesota:

- 1. Ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans.** Our faculty and staff will provide the best education available in Minnesota, preparing graduates to lead in every sector of Minnesota's economy. We will continue to be the place of opportunity, making education accessible to all Minnesotans who seek a college, technical or university education; those who want to update their skills; and those who need to prepare for new careers.
- 2. Being the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs.** Our colleges and universities will be the partner of choice for businesses and communities across Minnesota to help them solve real-world problems and keep Minnesotans at the leading edge of their professions. Our faculty and staff will enable Minnesota to meet its need for a substantially better educated workforce by increasing the number of Minnesotans who complete certificates, diplomas and degrees.
- 3. Delivering to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the best value / most affordable option.** Our colleges and universities will deliver the highest value to students, employers, communities and taxpayers; and we will be the most affordable higher education option.

To deliver on these three commitments, system leaders are moving forward with great intent in implementing bold initiatives and actions with aggressive timelines for completion.

### **Board Member Responsibilities**

The board provides policy guidance and leadership for the institutions, approves academic program requirements and the conditions of admission, approves funding allocations and tuition and fees, adopts policies for the institutions across all areas of operations, including academic and student affairs, finance, human resources, and technology, reviews and approves annual financial statements and audits, and approves labor negotiation strategy and faculty bargaining agreements. It also hires the system chancellor, and the presidents and vice chancellors upon the recommendation of the chancellor.

Members of the Board of Trustees should expect to devote considerable time and effort to this public service. Actions of the board affect the more than 400,000 students the system serves each year, the system's nearly 18,000 employees, and the annual budget of approximately \$2.0 billion.

Activities that members of the Board of Trustees can expect to participate in include the following:

- Nine scheduled board meetings per year, usually lasting two days on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. The Board approves its meeting calendar and conducts officer elections at its annual meeting in June.
- Orientations for new trustees, additional meetings, retreats, public hearings and campus visits also may be scheduled.
- Approximately one week prior to the board meeting, board members receive for review a packet of materials including the agenda, proposed policies and reports.

At the chair's request, trustees also may participate in the following:

- Events such as commencements, groundbreakings, building dedications and other celebrations, many of which take place on college and university campuses.
- Interviews of finalist candidates for campus presidencies and vice chancellor positions and other activities in connection with search committees.
- Legislative hearings at which system issues are discussed.
- Professional development opportunities by attending meetings and seminars to gain additional knowledge about higher education. Some of these are offered by national higher education associations specifically for governing boards and may require out-of-state travel.

Links to the Board of Trustees home page, Code of Conduct and statutory authority are included below.

Home Page: <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/index.html>

Code of Conduct: <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/index.html>

Statutory Authority: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136F.06>