Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, September 3rd from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Zoom link (if this link does not work, please use the link in the calendar invite)

Current leadership

Role	Student Information
President	Alex Bender: Anoka Ramsey Community College - Coon Rapids
Vice President	Aaron Eischen: Inver Hills Community College
Treasurer	Rose Sargent: South Central College - North Mankato
Secretary	Roxy Manzano, Rochester Community and Technical College
Region 1 Rep: North	Tarrell Dukes: Minnesota North
Region 2 Rep: Central	Adrianna Rodriguez: Ridgewater College
Region 3 Rep: South	Denise Tonche: South Central Community College (Chair)
Region 4 Rep: Metro West	Kate Syrovatskaya: Normandale College
Region 5: Metro East	Issa Adan: Century College
Region 6: The Cities	Nichole Nash: Minneapolis College
Region 7: Metro Northwest	Ryan Ismail: North Hennepin Community College (Vice Chair)

Rights and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

Rights	Responsibilities
Access to financial statements	Read the statements and understand them

	enough to participate meaningfully
The right to be well informed (political, financial language)	Communicate training needs and ideas (especially for future leaders)
Right to be an advocate, to use/have a voice	Doing right by the students, represent responsibly (effectively/accurately)
Approve amendments to the bylaws	Read, review, understand Bylaws - communicate to other students any changes
Oversee, review LeadMN policies	Maintain policies and access to governing documents (e.g. being able to quickly access and refer to Bylaws)
Hire and oversee LeadMN Executive Director	Understanding ED job role and hiring process; support the ED to be successful in their role
Set a budget	Knowing historical budgets and actuals; accurate budget forecast based on goals
Adopt a motion and create a resolution	Identifying and proactively solving problems
Meet monthly	Work done is effective at advancing our goals
Advocate positions enacted at the fall GA	Understand GC roles and what seats are open
	Fiduciary responsibilities - understand them, attend training, ask questions

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Meeting Agenda

Attendee list

Board members: Tarrell Dukes, Adrianna Rodriguez, Denise Tonche, Kate Syrovatskaya, Issa Adan, Nichole Nash, Ryan Ismail

Leadership Council members: Alex Bender, Rose Sargent, Aaron Eischen

Staff members: Rachel Boeke, Ben Howery, Jasmine Epps-Flowers, Carin Bratlie Wethern, Molly Leutz

Guests: Kevin Lindstrom, President Minnesota State College Faculty; Mark Grant, Director of Government Relations Minnesota State College Faculty

Open the Meeting and Consent Agenda Items: (2:00pm - 2:05pm)

1. September 2026 agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Nichole

2nd the motion: Tarrell

Motion passed unanimously

Welcome and icebreakers: (2:05pm - 2:10pm)

1. What was a highlight of your summer?

Members and guests shared names, roles, and summer highlights

(Combined) Presentation Topic and Discussion Question: (2:10pm - 3:10pm)

1. Allocation Framework - Kevin Lindstrom, President Minnesota State College Faculty
    a. Budget attachments
    b. Letter from MSCF to Chancellor Olson and VC Maki
2. LeadMN response
    a. What questions do directors have about this potential action from the board of trustees?
    b. Initial feedback about LeadMN's stance

Kevin and Mark presented as well as provided answers/feedback to several questions asked by board and leadership council members.

The board then had an internal discussion. There was unanimous agreement that the budget allocation framework changes currently under consideration (as detailed in the documents linked above) by the MinnState system present potential catastrophic impacts on the 2-year institutions that we serve. With the information we currently have, LeadMN will not support the proposed changes and will speak with the Chancellor's office, members of the system office and the board of trustees to let them know of our concerns.

Action Items: (3:10pm - 3:30pm)

1. Vote on removal of Roxy Manzano from the Secretary position

Roxy did not attend the meeting to make a case to stay in her position. Rachel and Alex shared details of Roxy's failures to show up in numerous meetings and responsibilities.

Motion to remove Roxy from the Secretary position: Adrianna

2nd to the motion: Nichole

Motion passed unanimously

2. Operating Account budget actuals for FY26 (BoD version with notes)

Rose presented the FY26 budget actuals as well as answered questions from board members.

Motion to approve the budget actuals: Ryan

2nd to the motion: Issa

Motion passed unanimously

3. Appointments to MinnState Council and Committees
    a. Sign ups to date
    b. NEW: Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning Workgroup - 1 student needed
        i. Guiding question: What programs, people, and places do we need to fulfill our mission in the future?
        ii. Purpose: This workgroup is charged with leading the comprehensive systemwide planning effort. It will evaluate the system's overall structure, academic programming, workforce, and physical footprint against long-term financial and enrollment realities, and develop recommendations that ensure Minnesota State can sustainably fulfill its mission across all campuses and leased spaces.
        iii. Start time: late October/early November. Will meet monthly for 12-18 months
    c. NEW: Allocation Model Redesign Workgroup - 1 student needed
        i. Purpose: This workgroup is charged with leading a review of the Allocation Model — evaluating the current model's components, weighting, and methodology, exploring alternative models/approaches, and developing recommendations for the Chancellor and Board of Trustees on how the model can better serve the system's institutions and students.
        ii. Start time: late October/early November. Will meet monthly for 12-18 months
    d. NEW: Long-term Strategy Taskforce - a combination of those two workgroups and needs to be 1 of the 2 students already assigned to one of the workgroups
        i. The purpose of the Long-Term Strategies Taskforce is to provide strategic oversight, coordination, and decision-making for the work conducted by the two affiliated workgroups. The Taskforce ensures alignment with organizational goals, resolves cross-workgroup issues, monitors progress, and advances recommendations for leadership consideration and approval.
        ii. Start time: after the workgroups have begun. Will meet bi-monthly for 12-18 months.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

- Approve the slate of student leaders on the MinnState Councils and Committees spreadsheet linked in the agenda
- Approve Alex to be the representative to the Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning Workgroup
- Approve Rose to be the representative to the Allocation Model Redesign Workgroup
- Approve Rose to be the representative to the Long-term Strategy Taskforce

Motion made by Denise

Motion seconded by Tarrell

Motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports and Discussion (3:30pm - 3:45pm)

1. Advocacy Committee
    a. Second Tuesdays at 2:00pm - 3:30pm
        i. Note that this should read second Thursdays from 2:00pm - 3:00pm
    b. First meeting of the academic year is Thursday, September 10th
    c. Welcome packet information

Alex provided the update

2. Fiscal Committee
    a. 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month from 1:30pm - 2:30pm
    b. First meeting of the academic year is Thursday, September 17th

Rose provided the update as well as the slightly adjusted time frame for the September meeting

3. Steering Committee
    a. Date TBD

With Roxy removed from the Secretary role, the board was presented with the option to have the Vice President, Aaron, chair this committee until a new Secretary was named.

Motion was made by Nichole

Motion was seconded by Adrianna

Motion passed unanimously

4. Interest in ad-hoc committees for 2026/2027

There was discussion of the ad-hoc committees from last year, how members would go about submitting proposals for new ad-hoc committees this year, and any new interest will be presented at upcoming meetings.

Leadership and Staff Reports and Discussion (3:45pm - 4:00pm)

1. Alex Bender, President
2. Aaron Eischen, Vice President
3. Rose Sargent, Treasurer
4. ~~Roxy Manzano, Secretary~~
5. Andrea Tritschler, Communications Director
6. Ben Howery, Advocacy and Program Director
7. Carin Bratlie Wethern, Development Director Alumni Circle Sign Up Form Please forward this to alumni!!
8. Jasmine Epps-Flowers, Manager of Events and Strategic Partnerships
9. Molly Leutz, Policy Director
    a. Student Policy Priorities Survey
    b. Policy Pathways Sign Up: LeadMN.org bottom of the page
10. Rachel Boeke, Executive Director
11. Teresa Gomes, Office and Property Manager

Updates were shared

Review Items:

Staff reports
Executive Director
Communications Director
Manager of Events & Strategic Partnerships
Program & Advocacy Director
Development Director
Policy Director
Office Manager 1 2 3

Leadership Council
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Board of Directors
Region 1
Region 2
Region 3
Region 4
Region 5
Region 6
Region 7

Student Advocates
Region 3
Region 4, w/ additional hours Payroll August 22-31st Lead MN - Andrea Kimlinger.pdf
Region 5
Region 6
Region 7

System Advocates
Region 2
Region 3
Region 6

Associates
Policy Leadership
Policy Communications
Advocacy Storytelling
Website - Christian Marshall
Website - Candace Vogel
Scholarship Database
Video Production