

Date and Time: Thursday, November 16, 2023, 2:30pm-4:00pm

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Attendees: Amy Nelson, Andrew Wold, Anthony Miller, Billie Annette, Bob McMaster, Chibuzo Ezeigbo, Dana Goodwin, David LaPorte, Dennis Olson, Eugene Piccolo, Jennifer Kunze, Jennifer Verbrugge, Jeremiah Ellis, Jessica Espinosa, Joey Cienian, Jon Peterson, Josiah Litant, Julie Selander, Katie McClelland, Kate Perushek, Krystle Igbo-Ogbonna, Liz Williams, Nancy Floyd, Representative Nathan Coulter, Nora Morris, Paul Cerkvenik, Paul Dressen, Sally Reynolds, Satasha Green-Stephen, Scott Croonquist, Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Sheila Hoffman, Stephanie Graff, Steve Rogness, Tim Benz, Wendy Robinson, Zeke Jackson, Zhawin Gonzalez

Notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Josiah Litant

a. Welcome, introductions of new members and guests

New attendees and guests introduced themselves.

b. Approval of minutes from past meeting

Minutes approved with no changes.

2. Debrief of September meeting takeaways/highlights

Josiah Litant and Executive Committee

Josiah reviewed slides summarizing the September meeting, including:

- Ideas generated for the P-20 vision statement
- Feedback for who should be invited to meetings.
 - Students, parents, and educators
 - Diverse representation
- How to embed equity principles in P-20 work
- How to strengthen MNP20's system and processes
- Possible new focus areas, including educator pipeline, pathways for underserved populations, and early learning and care

Discussion:

- Exciting to see the new focus areas that are surfacing, these are important areas to focus. Discussion of underserved students highlighted the many underserved groups of students that need to be prioritized, including racial/ethnic communities, students with disabilities, and incarcerated students, among others
- When starting new initiatives, it is important to pay attention to how we sunset other projects.

3. Overview of 2024 workplan and subcommittee work Josiah Litant and Executive Committee

Josiah presented slides on the 2024 workplan, which will be included in this year's annual legislative report. Work will include focusing on P20 governance and membership, learning from other state P20 partnerships, strategic planning, and moving the workgroup efforts forward – among other topics.

Additional updates from workgroups:

- Financial aid and literacy workgroup will have a summit in 2024
- Data group is currently discussing a proposal for next steps to restart in early 2024
- Credentials of Value work has implementation steps ahead coming out of the report that was presented earlier this year
- Dual Credit workgroup has met and Executive Committee will be discussing its scope for 2024

4. Equity focus: Presentation and discussion of SCOTUS affirmative action ruling Bob McMaster

Bob presented slides discussing the implication of the SCOTUS decision. The University of Minnesota has increased the racial/ethnic diversity of its student population, with the most recent 2022 enrollment representing the most diverse ever. So this decision is very concerning. The decision should not impact Native American students, since Tribal affiliation is different than race and ethnicity. UMN Campuses will continue to gather race/ethnicity data in admissions but that data will be suppressed for admissions reviewers. Holistic review, application essays, and other applicant responses will continue to inform admissions decisions. Pathway programs are still permitted provided they are not restricted based on race or ethnicity. UMN is also looking at whether any language in financial aid programs needs to change.

Dennis Olson: OHE is also considering the impact of this decision and any implications for financial aid programs. It is important not to overinterpret the decision.

Andrew Wold (OHE General Counsel): the decision is very limited, very narrow in scope. Regarding financial aid programs, we are going to continue the work until we are told that we cannot.

Discussion:

- High school experience will be important: high school transcripts, the role of counselors, and where to target preparation and recruitment efforts.
- The decision could impact efforts to diversify the teacher workforce.
- Also, how much will students have to make themselves vulnerable without re-traumatizing themselves when discussing their experience in applications?
- Implications for private colleges and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system were also discussed.
- Question: What can the MNP20 do to make the strength of our voice make positive changes in racial equity?
 - Responding with unified voice when institutions face legal challenges
 - Focusing on closing and eliminating racial equity gaps

5. Announcements, updates, invitations, questions

a. Process for January legislative report

Josiah Litant

Legislative report is due in early January. A draft will be shared in December for review, edits, and additions to be sent to Josiah via email or any member can request a one-on-one meeting with Josiah (or an Executive Committee member) to discuss edits or additions. The Executive Committee will review feedback before finalizing the report. The partnership will receive a copy of the final version, which will also be public.

b. Other announcements

All

Suggestion for January meeting: Governor Walz executive order eliminating college degree requirements from many state positions. Also requires Individual Development Plans for employees. Could the P20 weigh in on this? Potential for inviting someone from the governor's office or MMB. (Note: This is the executive order: https://mn.gov/governor/assets/23-14%20College%20Degree%20EO_tcm1055-597859.pdf).

Regarding the SCOTUS decision, are there any resources for high school counselors? Would be helpful to have something for them. Stephanie will reach out to school counselors' association on behalf of MDE and inquire what guidance they have given, and will report back to the group.