

MSCF Minute



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Reimagining Update

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by Matt Williams; MSCF President Elect

There are a couple important updates to pass along that are consequential for us. The first is that [Chancellor Devinder Malhotra's term has been extended through 2023](#). The rationale for this contract extension is to give Chancellor Malhotra the time necessary to realize whatever changes are associated with the Reimagining initiative.

The second is that on Monday, April 8, MSCF members from the Executive Committee and the Meet and Confer team had a chance to talk directly with Chancellor Malhotra about the Reimagining initiative.

Chancellor Malhotra spoke at length about the Reimagining initiative. At the end of the conversation, MSCF President Kevin Lindstrom attempted to clarify what we had heard from the Chancellor by restating several key concepts in more direct language.

Among them:

1. Public funding for higher education has irrevocably changed. The future will be defined by less public money, and more strings attached to what money we do get.
2. Education for the sake of education is over. Education must serve a direct need (needs of employers?) in society if public funds will be used.
3. Curriculum will fundamentally change.
4. Institutions will be more interconnected within the system.
5. The role of faculty will fundamentally change.

For each of these concepts, the Chancellor either affirmed them or did not deny them.

Taken individually, each point could be seen as innocuous. But when taken together as a cohesive worldview, something very different emerges. This worldview is of-

ten behind the many other education “reform” movements we have seen across this country. It precedes on the false premise that there’s simply no money for public education as we once knew it, so the only solution is to disrupt, transform, and break anything that gets in the way of lowering cost and maximizing efficiency for the schools with students who cannot afford high quality on their own.

I don’t know what the Chancellor sees when he thinks about what Minnesota State will look like by the end of this initiative. But here’s what I do know: we live in the richest country in the world with a tremendous amount of resources. I believe these resources should be used for more than simply deepening corporate profits. Our work in open access, public colleges is an essential component of ensuring everyone has a path to live a dignified life. We cannot achieve this if only some people have access to high quality education and the rest are relegated to a cheaper, second tier system.

We will keep you updated as more clarity around this initiative emerges.

MSCF Legislative Update

Please click on the image below for this week's legislative update from Mark Grant.

