

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Representative Dan Wolgamott, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on February 26, 2026, in Room G23 in the State Capitol Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

**Members Present:**

WOLGAMOTT, Dan (DFL Chair)  
COULTER, Nathan (DFL Vice Chair)  
SCHWARTZ, Erica, (GOP Vice Chair)  
ALLEN, Keith  
DURAN, Bidal  
HANSON, Jessica  
HICKS, Kim  
KLEVORN, Ginny  
LIEBLING, Tina  
NOOR, Mohamud  
NOVOTNY, Paul  
ROBBINS, Kristin  
SCOTT, Peggy

**Members Excused**

RARICK, Marion (GOP Chair)

A quorum was present.

Representative Coulter moved the minutes of February 24, 2026, be approved. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Presentations on the Impact of Operation Metro Surge on Minnesota's Colleges and Universities

Testifiers:

- Paul Pribbenow: President, Augsburg University
- Jenna Chernega: IFO President and Winona State Sociology Faculty
- Mark Grant: Governmental Relations, Minnesota State College Faculty
- Jennifer Erwin: AFSCME Local 4001, President of AFSCME MinnState Policy Committee
- Brendan Frazier: Student, Concordia University, St. Paul
- Jonathon Fitzgerald: Co-Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee, Minnesota State Mankato
- Sudi Adow: President, LeadMN
- Will Luther: Director of State Affairs, Undergraduate Student Government
- Gretchen Ritter: Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota
- Gregg Goldman: Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations, University of Minnesota
- Scott Goings: General Counsel, Minnesota State
- Deidra Peaslee: President, Saint Paul College
- Sharon Pierce: President, Minneapolis College
- Thanh: University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- Fatima Duba: Student at Saint Paul College

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

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Representative Dan Wolgamott, Chair

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Carl Yaeger, Committee Legislative Assistant